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THE VILLAGE.

MAYFIELD

THE STORY OF AN OLD WEALDEN VILLAGE

BY

E. M. BELL-IRVING

LONDON

WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED

23, COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.

1903

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PREFACE.

THE idea of compiling some account of the past of our village arose from a very small beginning. Our late Vicar, finding I was writing a short sketch of the place for a friend to send with some drawings to an illustrated paper, asked me to contribute something of the sort to our Parish Magazine. This I was pleased to do and

ERRATA.

Page 31, line 7.	*For* Waleby *read* Wileby.
„	*For* Strodherde *read* Stodherde.
Page 135.	*For* 1251 *read* 1351.

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The illustrations of the Church and Village are from original drawings by Mr. Edgar Barclay.

E. MARGARETTA BELL-IRVING.

MAYFIELD, *October*, 1903.

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MAYFIELD.

THE STORY OF AN OLD WEALDEN VILLAGE.

CHAPTER I.

"THE sweetest village in England."

Thus wrote Coventry Patmore, the poet, of Mayfield, before the days of railway or modern building; but the old village has a great charm yet, and is practically unspoilt by alterations. It crowns the top of a gradual ascent, and stands a landmark for many miles around. The fine old church and the towers and roofs of the convent buildings form a central group on the highest point, around which cluster the peaked red roofs of the houses that follow the downward slope of the ground, not so closely set together as to prevent glimpses of sunny gardens and green trees in their midst.

When a stranger arrives at Mayfield station (on a branch line of the Brighton and South Coast Railway, opened in 1880), the first buildings to meet his eye as he walks up the hill to the village are modern ones. Before the railway came, he would have reached the village, not by "Station Road," but by the "Level," its old name, through fields on both sides, with the raised footpath on the left, made by the owner of the said fields in order that the ladies of the place should have a clean path whereon to take their winter walks; and here they were wont to pace up and down. A gate at the end was known as the "turn back gate," where now is a road leading to newly-built houses. A stile and footpath on the other side led to the "Lower Level" (the modern West Street); both join the High Street; and the Lower Level communicates with the lane (or South Street). This again forks into two parts, connected by more than one alley, and is a most populous part of the place, where cottages, old and new, jostle each other at various angles. Following the

High Street, "Aylwins," or the "Lower House," is the first building of any interest. It is a seventeenth-century stone house, with mullioned windows, and is built round a quadrangle (now partly covered in), which has a curious half-timbered staircase tower, a survival from the earlier house, which is known to have stood on the same site. "Aylwins" is the ancient name, altered to the "Lower House" by the Baker family, who also owned the "Middle House." The garden extended as far as Love Lane; but a part was sold about the middle of the last century, and a dwelling-house and the chapel were afterwards built on the site. The place was formerly owned by a family named Adowne, the heiress, Alice, marrying John Aynscomb in the time of Henry VI. The Aynscombs, who were iron-masters, possessed it until 1672, when it was purchased by John Fuller. In 1728 the Rev. Peter Baker, the vicar, became the owner. During the last century it has changed hands several times, and it has lately undergone considerable alterations.

Both the inns, the "Oak" and the "Star," are old buildings. The projecting timbers of the first floor of the latter are well seen from the passage at the side called "Star Lane." The church, dedicated to St. Dunstan, on the left is almost hidden from view by the houses in the village street, from which two narrow ways, which may be easily overlooked, lead to it. The church is described in Chapter VI. The keys are kept by Mr. Fenner, the clerk, on the right of the principal entrance.

The houses surrounding the churchyard stand on the foundations of much older ones, and the most ancient bit of architecture in the place, not excepting the remains of the archbishop's palace, is to be found under the draper's shop before reaching the churchyard gates. It is a groined crypt that once formed the first storey of a dwelling of the period of Edward I., within which is an archway that led to a staircase concealed in the thickness of the wall.

"Stone Court" on the right-hand side of the street, once the workhouse with a thatched roof, has been refronted, but retains its gables and barge-boards. It is now the home of the "Mayfield School of Wood-Carving and Gilding," which has done some excellent work and is open to visitors. The library and reading-rooms are on the ground floor. The "Middle House," further on, is a strikingly picturesque half-timber house, bearing the date 1575. By whom it was actually built is not known. It was owned by Thomas Houghton, Principal of Clifford's Inn, London, some time after the year 1614; he married Mary, daughter of Thomas Aynscombe of "Aylwins." It was purchased in 1669 by the Baker family, who

sold it in 1841 to Edward Tench, Esq., from whom it was purchased by the late Alfred Tylor, Esq. The interior boasts some fine oak carvings and ancient furniture, in keeping with its date. There is a sliding panel between two of the rooms in the attic, about which the story is told that some former owner of the place imprisoned a disobedient wife in one of these rooms, allowing her to see no one, and taking all food to her himself. The undaunted lady by accident discovered the sliding panel, and, slipping out with a tray in her hand, lay in wait for her husband in the gloom at the head of the stairs, and dealt a resounding blow on his head as he came within reach. History is silent on the point as to which of them ruled in the future.

The next house is of the same period, and has some good fluted panelling in the baker's shop, and curious skirting boards of rough hewn oak. It has a staircase above formed of solid blocks of oak laid one on another. The stone house opposite was built by Mr. Michael Baker, about the year 1730, almost entirely from materials taken from the ruins of the palace close by; nor does this seem to be by any means the only instance of thus utilising materials ready to hand. An old inhabitant used to declare that there was scarcely a pig-sty in the place but had at least its foundations of stones taken from the ruins. The arched gateway of the Palace joins the garden of Stone House (to give its old name, though it now belongs to the convent, and is known as St. Joseph's). These arches had long been filled in, forming the hall of a private house, and were only opened out and restored to their original use a few years ago. The buildings on each side—the priest's house to the left, and a schoolroom for poor children on the right—were added at the same time. The Palace or "Place," as it was locally named, was bought in 1863 by the then Duchess of Leeds, and was restored by Mr. Pugin; and since that time it has been converted into a convent of the Community of the Holy Child.*

The National Schools stand on the bank beyond. The present Boys' School was built by subscription, aided by a grant from the National Society in 1814, and was kept as a mixed school for a time. That for the girls was built by the same means in 1851, and a room for infants was added in 1873.

The road to Tunbridge Wells leads past the Girls' School, with the vicarage grounds to the right, while the convent land skirts it on the left. The road which continues the village street leads down

* For the early history of the Palace, see Chapter V.

the steep hill of Fletching Street. A tall old brick and timber house on stone foundations, built on the bank to the left, is said to have been a haunt of smugglers. The place was well adapted for concealment, as the steep fall of the ground allowed of two cellars, one below another, where smuggled goods were stored. This road leads to the hamlets of Coggins (or Calkins) Mill to the left—a picturesque corner with some pretty old houses—and Luggers Crouch (more modernly termed East Street) to the right. Beyond East Street lies the district of Bibleham, once a manor; and the moated remains of its ancient mansion house are still traceable in Park Wood.

By virtue of the situation almost every house commands a beautiful view of the surrounding country; to the south, over the Rother valley, to the long Heathfield ridge surmounted by groups of firs; to the north, across to Argos Hill, with its windmill on the left, and the rising ground beyond, which forms the watershed of the country, the tall buildings of St. Xavier's College standing among the trees on the extreme right; to the east, across Park Wood, and a wide expanse of trees and fields, to the villages of Ticehurst, Wadhurst, and Burwash, and on the south-east to the Brightling ridge with its "Needle"; * to the west, to Cross-in-Hand, with peeps of the South Downs.

But we go too fast; and before entering on further description, we ought to try to make clear where the place is situated of which we are speaking, and give a few facts, geographical and otherwise.

The greatest length of the county of Sussex, from east to west, is 76 miles, while from north to south it has an average breadth of about 20 miles. The range of hills known as the South Downs extends from the Hampshire border on the west to Beachy Head. Between these South Downs and the Surrey Hills, stretches the woody undulating district of the Weald, studded with many a picturesque village; and of these villages Mayfield is one of the most interesting.

Its highest point is 475 feet above sea level. It is 45 miles from London, 8½ south from Tunbridge Wells, 9 from Uckfield, and 16 from its county town of Lewes. The parish is bounded by those of Burwash on the east, Rotherfield and Buxted on the west, Frant on the north, and Heathfield on the south; and it lies in Loxfield-Camden hundred and Pevensey rape. The parish is divided into four quarters—the town, Mousehall, Five Ashes, and Bibleham.

* An obelisk built by the late John Fuller, M.P. for the county.

These divisions are of ancient date, and the churchwardens' and overseers' accounts have always been separately kept for each quarter. The total area is 13,632 acres of land, and 34 acres of water. The population of Mayfield civil parish, according to the census of 1901, is 3,164, of which 1,578 are males, and 1,586 are females, showing an increase in population of 252 during the last 20 years.

The Weald is sometimes spoken of as a *plain*, lying between the two ranges, whereas it is a fact that portions of the Weald are as high as these ranges; and the elevated plateau in its centre, known as the Forest Ridge, is from 500 feet to 800 feet above sea-level.

It was known as the Coit Andred, or Silva Anderida, in the times of the Britons and Romans; as the Andredesleigh or Andredeswald in the times of the Saxons. It was an immense forest, which commenced near Lyme in Kent, and extended, as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle informs us, 120 miles in length from that point, with an average breadth of at least 30 miles. It occupied a great part of Kent and Surrey, and the whole of Sussex, with the exception of the Downs and the maritime levels, and stretched quite into Hampshire. Here many of the conquered Britons retired, after the destruction of the city of Anderida (Pevensey) by the invading Saxons under Ælla in 481. To Ælla it owes its name of Sussex—the country of the South Saxons. After the death of his son, Edilwalch, the first Christian king of Sussex, it was merged in the kingdom of Wessex, but retained its name. The Andredeswald was also, in later years, the refuge of Sigbert, the king of the West Saxons.

The iron-works greatly furthered its gradual clearance, owing to the use of wood as fuel for the furnaces. The rainfall lessened as the timber was cleared, and marshes and lagoons gradually disappeared, while the river estuaries became narrower, and the land more generally inhabited and cultivated.

Not only the name "Weald" reminds us of the great forest. Ashdown Forest and Dallington Forest retain their names as part of it, even though little forest is left. The word "hurst" too, so constantly found in names of places around, dates back to the days of the forest, "hurst" being a Saxon word for a wood. The country still retains a richly wooded appearance, due not only to large woods, such as Park Wood, and those of the vicar, or the Isenhurst woods, but also to the many little "shaws" and "gills," and to the trees which stud the high hedges. There is plenty of variety in the timber. Oak, beech, fir, and larch mingle their varied foliage, while in the tangled thickets hazel, ash, chestnut, and

other woods suitable for hop poles are to be seen. These are cut down periodically, letting in sunshine and air, and causing flowers innumerable to spring up, to clothe the marks of man's handiwork with spring's most delicate blossoms, a veritable carpet of bluebells, primroses, anemones and lady's-smocks or cuckoo flowers. The wild periwinkle, the daffodil, the toutsaine, or amber, as it is locally called, the sweet woodruff, the marsh marigold, all grow freely. The botanist may find several rare plants, birthwort for one, which is said only to grow in places where there are ruins of monastic institutions. Also the spiked rampion grows between Waldron and Mayfield. A few of the rarer ferns survive the depredations of the itinerant fern-hunter, but the spots where they hide shall remain unindicated. Nor shall we say where the club moss sends out its curious trails in a marshy corner of a wood ; nor tell on what banks blooms the sweet white violet. Within this district nearly every variety of soil is found. Much is clay, with a gravelly or sandy subsoil, which, generally speaking, may be described as fruitful in the culture of ordinary crops, and of hop culture also. The clay is known as "Wadhurst Clay," and beneath it extends a bed of light greystone, rich in iron, which for some centuries supplied the numerous iron forges, to be referred to later on.

The red "oasthouses," with their white caps, are a striking feature of the landscape. These are the buildings where hops are dried ; but some are now given up to other uses, as the area under hop cultivation constantly dwindles. In 1837, there were 614 acres of hop gardens in the parish, but each year sees some of the gardens grubbed, owing to high wages, foreign competition, and other causes. It is a matter for regret, as labour in connection with hop gardens is required at almost all seasons, and hop tying in spring, as well as picking in autumn, gives employment to women and children. The lover of the picturesque must also regret the fact, for a hop garden, when picking is in progress, is not only an animated and busy scene, but one full of beauty and interest to anyone who enjoys pure air and country sights. It is popularly believed that the smell of the hops is extremely wholesome, and few indeed are the cottage invalids who stay away from the gardens during "hopping." In one way or other they contrive to reach the gardens, and contribute their mite towards the family earnings.

There are many quaint old farmhouses in the parish, several of which lie quite near the village, such as "Hunts" in the valley to the south by a stream which joins the Rother, and which crosses the road by the farm. A little foot-bridge is placed there for the con-

venience of pedestrians. The house is of brick and tiles on a stone foundation, with a good chimney stack. The effect of the buildings has been rather spoilt by a new roof of corrugated iron to the big barn. "Old Mill" beyond it can be reached either by a footpath from "Hunts," or by the road and then along its avenue of poplars. It lies so low by the Rother that after a heavy rainfall its flooded fields have the appearance of a lake; and the local saying is that the springs do not break until Old Mill has seen three floods. The house is an old, red-tiled one, and the water-mill there has constant mention in deeds for centuries past, when it formed part of the manor of Isenhurst. There is the not uncommon legend of an underground passage from Old Mill to the church.

"Cranesden," in the same direction, but nearer the village, was another fine old farmhouse, once the refuge of the Puritan vicar, Mr. John Maynard, after he was deprived of the living. He is said to have spent his last years there, through the kindness of his old friend and patron, Mr. Baker, and to have lived in charity with all men, including his successor in office. "Cranesden" was bought some thirty years ago by Mr. Woolner, the sculptor, who altered the house, adding to it the carved timber front of an ancient house, removed bodily from Shrewsbury. It has since been enlarged by successive owners, so that the original house forms but a small portion of the whole.

"Great Trodgers" Farm on the Tunbridge Wells road, over a railway bridge, is a half-timbered house of considerable age, with fine oasthouses near. It is prettily situated among hop gardens and woods, through which the furnace brook ripples over a rocky bed in a series of tiny cascades. The buildings should be seen in spring, when their surrounding orchard is in bloom.

"Sharnden" old manor house is now the farmhouse, while a new mansion called "Sharnden" has been built on the high ground above it, and at some distance from it, at the top of the hill beyond Calkins Mill. The way to the old house is by a lane to the left on the "Crouch" road, after passing that hamlet. The beautiful lane winds along between high flowery banks skirting "Merryweather"—approached by an avenue of Spanish chestnuts—an old dwelling, enlarged and improved. Here also a water-mill has stood from very early times. The red buildings lie low beside a little stream, and just beyond them, on slightly higher ground lies old "Sharnden," still surrounded by its ancient moat, though the water has been drained off. The long, low house of weather boarding above and brick below, joined by a low building to the

oasthouses, is charming. The deep-pitched roof of tiles, surmounted by its great chimney-stack, descends very low over part of the further side of the house, which is broken into a much more irregular outline than the front side, and glows with rich colour from the mosses growing on it.

There is an old story about two brothers named Arcoll, who "once upon a time" lived here. The younger was not very wise, and passed for a simpleton, though he evidently could be sharp enough on occasion. The household went to bed early, but it sometimes happened this young man was out, and if he came in after they had gone upstairs he would quite forget to shut the front door behind him, and it would be found open next morning. At last his brother told him that unless he came in by a certain hour the door should be locked and he could see how he liked sleeping in the barn. Next time the truant was late, he found the other had kept his word and that hammering and shouting were of no avail. The elder brother was not quite easy in his mind as to what the lad might do in a tantrum, so listened for his footsteps. To his horror he heard a splash in the moat and a shriek. To bound out of bed was the work of a moment. Shouting to the other inmates, "My brother has fallen into the moat!" he rushed downstairs, and soon they were all anxiously bending over the dark water. While so occupied they heard the door bang and its bolts shot; then a bedroom window opened and a triumphant voice cried, "Who is shut out now?" He had flung a big stone in the moat, and then hidden himself behind a bush by the door until the house was empty; and when he knew his trick was crowned by success, he went quietly to bed.

The great Sussex broad wheel waggons, with their long teams of horses, harnessed singly, remain with us, and the state of the farm roads gives an explanation of the continued use of such ponderous vehicles, which are not without a certain picturesqueness of their own. The oxen which often drew them have disappeared now the main roads are no longer soft and miry. The only ox team left in this neighbourhood seems to be one from Wadhurst parish, which occasionally passes through the village.

A peculiar feature of the streams of the neighbourhood is the deep yellow colour of their beds, also of the water at times, especially during dry weather; caused by the amount of iron held in solution, which is deposited as an oxide after contact with the atmosphere. The chalybeate spring just below Mayfield Railway Station, by the arch, has been often analysed, and is practically identical with the

Tunbridge Wells waters. Its virtues have been long known, to judge from the interpolation in old-fashioned writing on the title-page of an old book, at one time in the possession of J. T. Aukland, Esqre., F.S.A., which runs thus: "A Treatise of the Nature and Vertues of Tunbridge Waters. (*But there be better at Mayfield.*) By Lodwick Rowzbee, Doctor of Physick practising at Ashford in Kent." The Mayfield Parish Council have lately placed a basin with dipper, enclosed in brick over the spring; which, if less picturesque than the little stone basin by the road-side, as of old, is at all events more cleanly and more convenient.

The rivers of Sussex all rise within the county itself. Of these the three longer ones, the Arun, the Ouse, and the Rother, have their sources in the main Forest Ridge, while the Adur and the Cuckmere rise only from what may be termed the southern Forest Ridge. All, except the Rother, find passages through the South Downs on their way to the sea. The Rother flows mainly east while the other rivers flow south. Mayfield parish, lying in the immediate south of the watershed of the county, can only boast of small streams within its boundaries, even if the river Rother be one of them. It has its source in Rotherfield, near the further side of Argos Hill. It is popularly supposed to rise in the cellar of "Rotherhurst," where there is a spring, and the tiny streamlet first shows itself rushing merrily down the cleft it has worn for itself in a field below the house. It afterwards pursues a placid course through Mayfield by way of Wellbrook, Little Crabb, Claytons, Moat, Old Mill, and Froghole farms, rapidly increasing in size, and affording some trout fishing, to Bibleham, at the eastern boundary of the parish, where it is joined by its tributary, the Furnace river or brook, which traverses the parish by way of Great Trodgers, Pennybridge, Furnace Wood, Banky Wood, and Vicarage Wood, to Coggins Mill and Merryweather Mill, on its way to Bibleham.

The ancient name of the Rother was the Limene, and in Roman and Saxon times, when the configuration of the coast and the situation of the mouth of the river were widely different, it was of far more importance than it is at the present time. In 893 a Danish fleet of 250 vessels proceeded up the river some four miles, as far at the Weald, and there destroyed a fleet within the fen. The invaders were afterwards defeated by Alfred near Farnham. In the beginning of the last century it was in contemplation to make the Rother navigable as far as Scotsford Bridge, the boundary of Mayfield and Heathfield parishes. Some preparatory steps were taken, but the scheme failed.

Harris, in his "History of Kent" (published 1719), thus gives the course of the river :—

"It takes its rise near Argus Hill in Rotherfield parish; after it hath run by Mayfield it receiveth at Bibleham a brook which comes from Wadehurst; it flows to Etchingham; whence moving towards Salehurst, it takes in a stream which comes down to Burwash; and thence proceeds to Bodiam, and entering Kent in Salehurst parish, it is augmented by a brook, which rising about Flymwell, runs into it by Hawkhurst, Wygsell, etc. After this, it goes on to Newenden, and after passing the Isle of Oxney, it suddenly turns southward across the eastern extremity of the county, and expanding into an estuary, falls into the sea about two miles south-east of the Town of Rye; the harbour of which it forms; it is navigable for small vessels as far as Newenden, a distance of about ten miles."

Another old writer—Hasted—gives the former course of the Rother thus :—

"The river Rother, or Limene, instead of its present course, formerly flowed by Newenden to Maytham, and so along by Smalhyth and Reading, between the mainland and the Isle of Oxney, to the town of Appledore, where, instead of turning its course to the southward, as it now does towards Rye haven, it kept on close to Appledore, still eastward, along by where the Rhee wall now is; where the remains of the old trench in which the river flowed between Appledore and Old Romney, being about four miles, is plainly traced, being of large extent and breadth, though long since become dry, and converted into pasture ground. This river did not forsake its ancient course all at once, but at times, and by degrees, as appears by the continued means taken to prevent it, as well as against the inundation of the sea, so early as King Henry the First's time; and there happened one not long afterwards, which is mentioned both by Matthew Paris and Westminster."

The statements of various writers as to the condition of the roads seem well nigh incredible. "Sowsecks full of dirt and mire," is the character assigned to the county in an old rhyme, quoted in "Leland's Itinerary," written in the reign of Henry VIII. In 1534 an Act relating to Kentish roads was extended to Sussex. The original Act of 1523 authorised the proprietors of the Manor of Hempstead to enclose an "old common way for carriages and all other passages and business" on laying out another at least as broad and commodious, and also "in consideration that many other common ways in the said Weald of Kent be so deep and noyous by wearing and course of water that people cannot have their carriages or passages by horses, but to their great pains, peril and jeopardy,"

all persons so disposed were permitted to lay out new and more commodious roads by oversight and consent of two justices of the peace and twelve other discreet men inhabiting within the hundred or the hundred adjoining.

Various diaries afford us glimpses of the difficulties of transit. Thus the Rev. Giles Moore, Rector of Horsted Keynes, in his diary (1655-1679) mentions buying his "coverletts," and other bedding of William Clowson, "upholsterer itinerant, living over against the Cross at Chichester, but who comes about the country with his packs on horseback." This, in fact, was the way in which business was chiefly conducted in Sussex in the seventeenth century. The roads being too heavy for vehicles, the packmen on horseback were the chief carriers. Lord Chancellor Cowper, writing in 1690, says: "Sussex ways are bad and ruinous beyond imagination. I vow 'tis a melancholy consideration that men will inhabit such a heap of dirt for a poor livelihood. The county is a sink of about fourteen miles broad." Dr. Burton of Cambridge writes in his Journal for the year 1751:—

"Sussex is not easy to ride or drive through. . . . No one would imagine them (the roads) to be intended for the people and the public, but rather the by-ways of individuals, or more truly the tracks of cattle-drivers; every where the usual foot marks of oxen appeared; and we, too, who were on horseback, going on zig-zag almost like oxen at plough, advanced as if we were turning back, while we followed out all the twists of the roads. Not even now, tho' in summer time, is the wintry state of the roads got rid of, for the wet retained even till now in this mud is sometimes splashed upwards all of a sudden, to the annoyance of travellers. Our horses could not keep on their legs, on account of these slippery and rough parts of the roads, but, sliding and tumbling on their way, and almost on their haunches, with all their haste got on but slowly. . . . Come now, my friends! I will set before you a sort of problem in Aristotle's fashion. Why is it that the oxen, the swine, the women, and all other animals are so long-legged in Sussex? May it not be from the difficulty of pulling the feet out of so much mud by the strength of the ankle, that the muscles get stretched, as it were, and the bones lengthened?"

De Foe, who published his tour through England in 1724, says that not far from Lewes he witnessed a sight he

"never saw in any part of England before, namely, going to Church at a country village I saw an ancient lady—and a lady of very good quality, I assure you—drawn to Church in her coach by six oxen; nor was it done in frolic, or humour, but from sheer necessity; the way being so stiff and deep that no horses could go in it."

Horace Walpole gives an amusing account of his experiences. He says in one letter, dated August, 1749 :—

"We are returned from our expedition miraculously well, considering all our distresses. If you love good roads, good inns, plenty of postilions and horses, be so kind as never to go to Sussex—Sussex is a great damper of curiosity."

In another letter, dated August, 1752, he says :—

"We lay at Tunbridge town. The inn was full of farmers and tobacco; and the next morning, when we were bound for Penshurst, the only man in the town who had two horses would not let us have them, because the roads, as he said, were so bad. We were forced to send to the Wells for others, which did not arrive till half the day was spent. We went to Lamberhurst to dine; near which, that is, at the distance of three miles, up and down impracticable hills, in a most retired vale, we found the ruins of Bayham Abbey. Here our woes increased: the roads grew bad beyond all badness; the night dark beyond all darkness; our guide frightened beyond all frightfulness. However, without being all killed, we got up, or down—I forget which, it was so dark—a famous precipice called Silver Hill, and about ten at night arrived at a wretched village, called Rotherbridge. We had still six miles hither, but determined to stop. Alas! There was only one bed to be had, all the rest were inhabited by smugglers. We did not at all take to this society, so, armed with links and lanthorns, set out again upon this impracticable journey. At two o'clock in the morning we got hither to a still worse inn, and that crammed with excise officers, one of whom had just shot a smuggler. However, as we were neutral powers, we have safely passed through both armies hitherto, and can give you a little further history of our wandering through these mountains, where the young gentlemen are forced to drive their curricles with a pair of oxen."

It is said that John Wesley's work in Sussex was much hindered by the terrible state of the roads. With a pair of good horses, on a journey from Rye to Sevenoaks, he managed, "but with great difficulty," to get through fifteen miles in five hours.

It was the introduction of turnpike gates by which tolls could be levied under private Acts of Parliament, that the much needed roads were supplied. These were chiefly passed between 1756 and 1780. In 1840, out of 53 turnpike trusts, the roads in 36 were in good repair, in 12 they were in tolerable repair; in four only they were in bad repair, and one was under indictment. When the question of a turnpike road was discussed at a Mayfield vestry meeting,* there was a great outcry at the idea, and one farmer present declared it

* Turnpike accounts for the years 1815–34 are in the parish chest.

would be absurd to have a hard smooth road, because, "how could a broad wheel wagon stand upright if it had no ruts to go in?" Slowly, very slowly, did the roads improve, though now, except for the hills, they are all that can be desired. An old inhabitant of Mayfield, Miss Stone, who died in 1883 aged 92, was fond of telling the story of her return from school at Lewes for the Christmas holidays. The only practicable way was by riding on horseback on a pillion behind her father's groom. She was holding on to his leather belt, but at one very bad place the horse struggled so hard that she was jerked off into the mud. The man was rather deaf, and neither heard her call, nor missed her for a short time. At length he turned back, to find she had managed to reach the bank; but with the loss of one of her shoes, which had completely disappeared in the mire, and could not be found. It is also a fact that so late as 1818 Bishop Buckner advised a clergyman whom he had ordained in the November of that year, as the curate of Waldron, to lose no time in going there; for in the course of a very short time he would find it impossible to do so.

Even as late as the middle of the last century, the only route from Mayfield to Tunbridge Wells was by Fletching Street, Coggins Mill, and Lake Street to Mark Cross. Then, a way hitherto only used for the iron-works, through Old Place Farm, across the Furnace stream by the Old Furnace House, and so into Lake Street, was made a turnpike road, a bridge over the stream not being considered a necessity. A short cut was afterwards made, without regard to its steepness, from Old Place Farm to the top of the Furnace Wood (the so-called *Old* Tunbridge Wells road past Pennybridge), an undertaking which gave employment at the time to a number of people out of work.

Along both these roads (unless, as sometimes happened, their state was such that the service was perforce suspended) stage coaches frequently passed.

In 1833 the present road which avoids the valley, was constructed, from the vicarage gate to Argos Hill. Here it joined an already existing one from Butcher's Cross to Mark Cross. Prior to this, the route from Mayfield to Rotherfield was along what is now called Rotherfield Lane, and over the west side of Argos Hill.

Of the eight known British roads, but one entered Sussex. This was the Ermin Street, which stretched from the south-west of Scotland to London, where it divided into two branches. The most westerly went by Dorking, Stone Street and Pulborough to Chichester. There is more doubt as to the exact route of the eastern branch.

Dr. Stukely believed it passed through Croydon, East Grinstead, Isfield, and Lewes; but according to the last commentator on the Antonine Itinerary, it entered the county at Tunbridge Wells, and passed through Wadhurst and Mayfield, to Eastbourne and Pevensey. This route corresponds with the line of road marked out in Bertram's ancient map. These so-called roads must have been of the most rude description, probably mere cleared tracks; it remained for the Romans to transform some of them into the splendid highways for which they were justly famous; and the earlier Roman roads doubtless followed the lines already made, and were given Roman names.*

* A coin of the Emperor Constantine the Great was dug up some years ago at the foot of the old tower of the convent.

CHAPTER II.

SHUT off from other parts of the country for centuries by an almost impenetrable forest, isolated until quite recent times on account of bad roads, the Sussex people mingled little with the inhabitants of other counties—of the "Shires"—as almost all the rest of England is designated by them, as opposed to Kent and Sussex, where also it is no uncommon thing to hear a man from another part called a "foreigner." Thus it is scarcely surprising to find that not merely words, but customs, ways of thought, and superstitions have been handed down from generation to generation, and even yet linger among us.

Mayfield is one of the few places where the curfew bell has, it is believed, been continued from Norman times until within a few years ago. The earliest churchwardens' accounts show payments for ringing "ye eight o'clock bell"; and although they only take us back to 1725, they prove its continuance was no modern revival.

The practice of "going a-gooding," or asking for doles on St. Thomas's Day, has much declined of late years, but a few of the old women continue to make their round, even if their harvest of small coin be not so large as of yore. One parishioner in good circumstances made it a habit to put aside all fourpenny pieces received as change for "gooding-day" until his death about the time that coin was withdrawn from circulation, and none who came to him went empty-handed away.

The white "smocks," or round frocks, worn by bearers at funerals are rarely seen now. They were of finer stuff than those for work-a-day uses, and were kept for the purpose. They were used at the funeral of Mr. John Hughes of Skippers Hill in 1893. The bearers usually attended service on the Sunday after a funeral, wearing the white smocks, and long streamers of crape on their hats. Smock-frocks, usually of grey or green linen, adorned with beautiful stitchery, and rows of coloured glass buttons, were, twenty or thirty years ago, always worn on Sundays by working men, who nearly

filled the north aisle. This seems always to have been set apart for men, and no women were ever to be seen in that part of the church.

Stoolball, an old Sussex game, has been much revived of late in the county; and Mayfield boasts its stoolball club. It is played by girls, and is similar to cricket, the chief difference being that a round bat is held up against a wicket board one foot square, on a post between four and five feet in height. Tradition says it was originally played by milkmaids, holding up their stools for wickets, hence its name. Another name for the game was "bittle-battle" (*bittle*, a wooden milk bowl, *bat*, a piece of wood).

Does anyone now-a-days know the meaning of "pocket pieces"? They were pieces of money, usually presented by the elders to the juniors, not for spending, but to be kept, so that they "might never be without money in their pockets." Thus I have my great-grandfather's pocket piece, a crown of William and Mary, which never left his pocket during all the years he lived at Mayfield. Also I have some spade guineas, which were given to some great-great-aunts by their father. These were found on the death of the survivor of them wrapped up in paper, and each one endorsed "Pocket piece given by my father," with the name of the owner.

The barbarous custom of cock-throwing on Shrove Tuesday, supposed to have died out in the eighteenth century, has been indulged in, in his youth, by many a man now living, and the graphic description of the sport (?) given us by one old man, led us to infer he would much enjoy taking part in it again, had he the opportunity. Would that the custom of squirrel-hunting on Good Friday were also numbered among the things of the past!

"Good Friday bread" is still baked (or was so not long ago). This is made, as its name infers, on Good Friday, and is shaped into balls, and slowly baked until hard throughout. It is then pounded, and used throughout the year as a remedy for various ailments.

The belief in charms has probably not survived universal education, but I remember a woman offering to charm away a wart for me when I was a child. There was a certain charm for "axey" or ague; part of its virtue consisted in the words being written on a three-cornered piece of paper, to be worn round the neck until it dropped off; while a charm for burns was a rhyme to be repeated three times. House-leek on a roof was held to protect the building from lightning. I have seen in a shop at Brighton amber necklaces labelled "a cure for asthma." Is this the twentieth century belief in charms?

Mrs. Barclay of Sunny Bank was once advised by an old man to

carry a potato in her pocket as a cure for rheumatism, and I have had a stye in the eye doctored by a nurse who rubbed it with a borrowed wedding ring, as no other kind of ring would serve the purpose. She believed in this implicitly, and in many other things more curious. She impressed upon our minds that if we made "faces" at each other, *and the wind changed!* our faces would become *set*, without hope of cure. She had known a girl who was making hideous grimaces to frighten some little ones, the wind changed at that moment, and her eyes were squinting and her mouth crooked for the rest of her life. No clippings of our hair or nails must on any account be allowed to fall on the floor, or be disposed of otherwise than by burning, for if a dog should swallow the smallest portion, and that dog in the future go mad, we should go mad too. Eggshells must have a spoon thrust through the bottom, or the "hags" or witches would use them for boats. If the first sulphur butterfly of the season were caught, its head cut off, and the rest of it placed under a stone, a "crock" of money would be found under that stone later on.

The natural history taught her charges (and believed by them) was peculiar. Horsehair thrown into a stream turned into eels. "Effets" or newts spit poison, and must on no account be touched. It was best to run for one's life from a dragon-fly, as its sting was terrible! A snake could never die till sundown, no matter what attempts were made to kill it. The sting of a blind worm was usually fatal; and I think all snakes were classed as "adders."

A visitor passing through Mayfield some years ago was told by a man with whom he was chatting that his son could see "Ghostes," as he was born at midnight. Another odd belief was that if a man heard his own banns published his children would be deaf and dumb.

I know of few quaint local sayings or proverbs. "To beat the devil round the gooseberry bush" is to be long-winded or prosy. Old Mrs. Stone, whose married life in Mayfield began about 1788, used to say of a person given to exaggeration that "he could canter nine miles round a cabbage leaf."

The Rev. W. D. Parish says, in his "Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect," that it may be "chiefly traced to an Anglo-Saxon origin," and that "many of the words in common use denoting agricultural and domestic implements actually retain their original Anglo-Saxon names in all purity of spelling and pronunciation. From this source nearly all the Sussex surnames and names of villages and farms are derived."

The accent, so often placed on the last syllable, is also an Anglo-Saxon heritage. We have the farm of Spit*lye*, and speak of Helling*ly* and East Hoath*ly*. "Sure*ly*" constantly ends a sentence to give additional emphasis. We speak of Bible*ham* and Withy*ham*. From the Anglo-Saxon comes also the additional syllable, chiefly in the words ending in *st*—sometimes two additional ones—posts may be postes or posteses. The workhouse accounts have "bricheses" for breeches.

Other words may be cut short, and Mayfield and Heathfield may be "Meffle" and "Heffle."

Many words are in use that we often hear classed as "Americanisms," but which are in truth old English ones, once common everywhere. Among these are *mad* in the sense of angry; *bug* for any hard-winged insect; I *reckon* for I suppose; I *allow* for I am of the opinion; *spry* for brisk or cheerful.

"Slim" is an old Sussex word, with the same meaning as is attached to it by the Boers, viz., cunning, mean.

A stranger may find, if he exchanges a few words with people returning from the day's work, that they use words quite unfamiliar to him. An old man with bowed shoulders will say his "bat" is a great help in getting along, meaning the hedge-stake on which he leans. A strong young labourer will inform him he was "terrified" about something or other, not meaning it at all in the sense of being alarmed, merely that he was vexed. A girl will say her "trug"—a wooden basket—is full of "chucks" for lighting fires; a cheery old woman with her may tell how she does not feel the cold in winter so much as some do, for she has such good "healing" (coverings) to her bed. "Yes! the girl is her granddaughter, as anyone might tell, as she has quite the 'bly' (look or likeness) of her family." If he asks where some particular house in the village is situated, he will be directed "up-town" or "down-town," as the case may be. If he inquires after some person, he may be told he or she is "ornary" or "adle"; both mean "not quite well."

When as children we cried, we were told by our nurse not to "grizzle." When troublesome we were "contrairy." When we fretted we were "grievous." Did our hair get untidy, it was "as rough as a badger." Did we crumple our frocks, we had made them "sleezy." Once we were called up to see the "shay" (glow) of a burning rick in the distance. The youngest was the "sock" or pet. She sometimes announced she was "chuffy" (short-tempered), if she was put out about anything.

"Gallus" is used about here for "dreadful"; a "gallus job"

means a bad business. If, as some think, it is derived from "gallows," the real significance is now lost. I was once walking in the garden of "Stone House," next the churchyard, and hearing the bell toll, asked the gardener who was digging near for whom it was tolling. The poor old fellow lifted a drawn white face and said, "For my wife, and a gallus job it be."

He had his oddities; one was a power of answering back if found fault with. For instance, when Miss Stone found hand-lights carelessly stacked one on top of another in the potting shed, she called him and said, "See how those hand-lights are getting broken, piled together like that," and received the answer, "They beant half as broke as they was when I set 'em there."

Many of the words mentioned here are given in "A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect," by the Rev. W. D. Parish, where also the term "bondland" finds a place, as being used in Mayfield and Framfield for old cultivated or yard lands, which were parts of the forest cleared of wood, and put into a state of cultivation, for which rents were paid, under the name of assart-rents.

There is another ancient legal custom, never common in any part of the country, but found more frequently in Sussex than elsewhere, called Borough-English. This survives to a certain extent in some parts of the parish. Borough-English is defined as the right of the youngest son to inherit the copy-hold lands of his father, where no will has been made. It is believed to have originated from the pastoral state of our British and German ancestors, where the elder sons emigrated from the homestead as they grew up.

The peculiarities of speech are fast dying out. There has been a most noticeable difference during the last twenty years. Young people have a wider education, read more, travel more, while people from other parts come and settle among us, so that it is probably only a question of a short time ere a local dialect is numbered among the things of the past.

CHAPTER III.

No place of equal importance in mediæval times is involved in more obscurity than Mayfield. It was included in the manor of Mellinges, now Malling (to the north-east of Lewes), which belonged to the kings of Wessex; King Egbert and his son Ethelwolf at some time between 823 and 836 gave it to the Church of Christ Church, Canterbury.

This manor granted to the see of Canterbury extended in a north-easterly direction from the town of Lewes to the borders of the kingdom of Kent, occupying a narrow belt of land from twenty-five to thirty miles in length; hence we are able to trace the origin of the peculiar jurisdiction which the archbishops of Canterbury exercised over certain parishes within the limits of the see of Chichester; for upon the domain thus granted, which was then little more than part of a vast forest, afterwards arose villages adjoining each other, and over the whole the see of Canterbury, till within these few years, exercised a peculiar jurisdiction. For, although the archbishops did not remain in possession of any of the manors after the Reformation, they continued to hold their prerogative wherever their lands formerly lay. Thus the churches of Buxted, with the chapel of Uckfield; Malling, with the chapels of the Cliffe and Southeram in Lewes; Edburton, Framfield, Glynde, Isfield, Mayfield, Ringmere, Lindfield, Stanmer, and subsequently Wadhurst, were all under the peculiar jurisdiction of the archbishops (until 1846, when they were included in the see of Chichester), and were therefore called his "peculiars."

The sum of 6*s.* 8*d.* was due to the Dean of Malling from Mayfield and some of the other parishes for proxies; by which is meant a commuted sum paid by the parochial clergy, instead of finding a visitor of their parishes, whether bishop, archdeacon or dean and his attendants, in sustenance during the time of their visitation.

St. Dunstan, the great Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury, is considered to have been the first founder of the church and archi-

episcopal palace of Mayfield, on the authority of Eadmer, a monk of Canterbury, who about A.D. 1120 wrote a Life of this celebrated man. His, however, was by no means the first written history of St. Dunstan. The earliest Life was written by a priest (who only gives his initial B., and calls himself "Vilis Saxonum indigena") immediately after St. Dunstan's death, between A.D. 988 and A.D. 1000. He declares in the prologue that he heard much of what he relates from Dunstan himself, and much from his scholars. After him came Adelard, who wrote a biography some twenty years after the death of St. Dunstan. Next followed a Life by Osbern, a disciple of Archbishop Lanfranc; and after this came the compilation of Eadmer.

This latter author states that Dunstan built at Mayfield a wooden church, as he did at other remote places in his diocese where he had residences; also that when the church was about to be dedicated, on going in procession round it, he saw that it was out of the line of sanctity (not correctly oriented); therefore, gently pressing it with his shoulder, he moved it into the proper line of orientation, "the which that he easily effected no one can doubt, except he who would incredulously oppose the words of Christ, by which he promises to those who have faith as a grain of mustard seed, that they should transplant a mountain at a word."

Dunstan became successively Bishop of Worcester, and London, and Archbishop of Canterbury. King after king succeeded to the throne of Wessex during his lifetime; and he possessed immense power and influence in each reign, until the murder of Edward in 979, when it in a great measure ceased. Of the last thirteen years of Dunstan's life there are few records, though we are told he resumed at times the employments of his youth; exercising his old skill in various arts and handicrafts, in the making of various musical instruments, such as the organ, long kept at Malmesbury, and the bells that were known at Canterbury as Dunstan's own. May it not be possible that the ironworks on the archbishop's estates had their origin in the knowledge and skill of Dunstan as a metal worker, and that it is not merely legend that he had his forge here, as he had in earlier days at Glastonbury? Both Mayfield and Glastonbury claim to have been the scene of the celebrated contest with the Evil One, who appeared to the Saint in the guise of a young woman. Dunstan, espying the cloven hoof, heated his tongs red hot in his forge, and then seized the Devil by the nose; on which treatment the fiend assumed his proper shape, and fled away to cool his nose, first in the Mayfield iron-

spring, then in that of Tunbridge Wells; and the waters have had iron in them ever since!

Both Mayfield and Glastonbury also show the tongs used by St. Dunstan on this memorable occasion.

There is an old print of the scene, with the lines underneath :—

> "Saint Dunstan, soe the storie goes,
> Caught old Sathanus by the nose,
> He pull'd full hard, and made hym roar
> So he was heard three miles or more."

There are various versions of the rhyme; one slightly different from this is given in Hone's "Everyday Book," with a sketch of the engraving.

St. Dunstan is also said to have caused a spring of water to issue from the ground, by striking it with his staff. This is stated by Eadmer, who from the context, probably refers to the spring called St. Dunstan's Well, in the old Well-house at Mayfield Palace.

The church is dedicated to him, but during his lifetime it could not have been so dedicated, as his day was not made a feast until 1021; yet it seems reasonable to trust to tradition so far as to believe that by the eleventh century the church was so named.

Not a word of Dunstan's own writings, and but few of his sayings, have been handed down to us, but he remains a vivid personality; and the harsh judgments of former generations have been reversed in consequence of careful investigation of the documents which contain the story of his life.

For the next notice of Mayfield we must refer to the Domesday Book; that general survey of all England save the extreme north taken by order of William the Conqueror. This famous book is still in existence, at the Public Record Office. The first volume, which commences with Kent, and contains the survey of Sussex, is neatly written in black ink with occasional use of red, and is in double column on 382 double pages of vellum. No wonder it attained such a size, when the commissioners were required to state the name of every place, the owners in the time of Edward the Confessor, and the present time; the amount of land, the numbers of tenants, freedmen, homagers, and servi; of oxen, sheep, and swine; the amount of wood, meadow, and pasture; the number of mills, fish ponds, etc., etc. It is generally believed that "Mesewelle" in the hundred* of Reredfelle, or Rotherfield, stands for Mayfield.

* The hundred was originally a portion of the county in which dwelt a hundred sureties for the king's peace. Taking it in the sense of a

The translation of the entry is as follows :—

"The Earl" (of Mortain, who held forty different manors) "holds Mesewelle. Godwine held it. Then, and now, for four hides. There is land for two ploughs, and there they are with four villeins and five bordars.*

"In demesne is one plough. Wood for thirty hogs. In the time of Edward it was worth four pounds. Now worth forty shillings. Of this land William de Warene holds three rods of land and one mill."

It is curious that Mayfield should not have been cited as the property of the archbishops if the manor indeed belonged to them at this period, as is believed certainly to have been the case.

The earliest account rolls of the manor or beadlery of Mayfield in the Lambeth Library are dated 1411–12, so that no information can be gained from them on this point; the South Malling rolls also commence at the same date.

It will also be noticed that Mesewelle is stated to be in the Hundred of Rotherfield, not Loxfield; but this is unimportant, as a comparison of old maps will show how considerably the boundaries of the hundreds have been altered.

It seems more probable that "Mesewelle" may have stood for the "quarter" of Moushall only (that portion of the parish adjoining Rotherfield), and that the rest of Mayfield was included in the return for Malling of the archbishop's property; more especially as it is difficult to see how *Mesewelle* can have stood in Domesday as the name of a place called Magavelda in Eadmer's Life

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measurement of land, there is good authority for believing it to have been a hundred hides. This word was very early used among the Saxons; the quantity of it was described to be as much as was sufficient for one plough to cultivate, but may have varied in different places.

* Under the Saxon government the villeins or labourers on an estate, were in a condition of absolute servitude; and, together with their children and effects, belonged to the lord of the soil, like the cattle or stock upon it. Their position was not much better at the end of the thirteenth century, for there is a charter of this date now at Sunny Bank, Mayfield, in which Matilda and Letitia, granddaughters of Adolf, a villein, are sold together with some land, by their owner at East Grinstead for a sum named. As late as the year 1511, "George Neville, Lord Bergavenny, enfranchised Andrew Borde, his nativus or villein belonging to his Manor of Ditchling," and him, the said Andrew made free from all bondage, villeinage and servile condition, so that neither he, the said Lord, nor his heirs, nor anyone else, should have for time to come any claim or right, in or upon the said Andrew, nor on his goods or chattels.

of St. Dunstan, and known in succeeding centuries as Magafeud, Maghefeld, Maghfeld, and Maighfeld.

It is in 2 Ed. I. (11 Oct. 1274) that the name of Lokkesfeld first occurs. Then a commission was appointed, and it is recited as follows:—

"Hundred of Lokkesfeld.

"Names of those who have lately appropriated to themselves free chases, etc.

"They (the jurors) say that the Earl of Warenne has warren in the Rape of Lewes, and has afforested le Clers, but they know not by what warrant; and has extended the bounds and metes beyond his fee into the fee of Christ Church, Canterbury, from le Clers up to Lindfeld, where the Canons of Suth Melling were wont to run (their dogs).

"In the same manner at Wodeton over the fee of Christ Church, Canterbury, where the prior of the same church was used to run (his dogs) at his pleasure.

"Likewise the Canons of Suth Malling were used to run (their dogs) at Stanmere and Baldesden, because they are of the fee of the said church, in the time of King Henry, and from a time of which there is no memory.

"They say that Walter Burdon of the Rape of Lewes and hundred of Hawkesberg made an encroachment on the fee of Christ Church, Canterbury, at Magfeud in the time of King Henry, the length of three quarenteens and more, and that he still holds that encroachment.

"Also the Abbot of Begeham has diverted the course of the said water from the county of Sussex into the county of Kent over his own land, the length of five quarenteens, in the time of King Henry, five years ago.

"Also the abbot of Boyle has drawn the course of the same water from its course, over his own land, a length of five perches, and has raised a weir on the Archbishop's fee between Wadeherst and Chygehege without warrant.

"About those who imprisoned felons for money, etc.; and who extorted money for releasing them from prison when they may be bailed. They say that john Beneyt was imprisoned for defamation and could not be bailed, until he had made a fine with Richard de Pevenes of 10*s.*, when he was bailable by law.

"In the same way Geoffrey le Hete was imprisoned and could not be bailed until he had made a fine with the same Richard of two marks, and he was bailable by law.

"Of the escheator and sub-escheator.

"They say that Richard de Clifford the escheator seized the manor of Suth Malling, and levied from the poor tenants of the same manor £36 17*s.* at his pleasure. And afterwards came Hugh de Thornham and Nicholas le Bretun on behalf of the said escheator and sold wood in the manor of Suth Malling, both in the forest and in the parks, to the value of £43 and upwards.

"And the same escheator caused the stews (vivaria) to be fished at his

pleasure, and took what he liked; and so did the seneschall of our Lady the Queen in the stew of Plottesbregg.

"And when the said Manor of Suth Melling was in the said Queen's hand, Richard de Pevenes' seneschall of the saine place, sold in his time wood in the aforesaid manor to the value of £54."

This same Richard de Pevensey was Sheriff of Sussex 14 and 15 Edward I. It is also recited that he took the measures from Wadhurst, Lamberhurst, Mayfield, Uckfield, and Tarring, and partly burnt them, and partly carried them away without the king's authority, and extorted fines.

In the thirteenth century there were three (if not more) beadleries: these were—1, Mayfield; 2, Framfield; 3, Ringmer. The first consisted of the parishes of Mayfield, Wadhurst and part of Lamberhurst, and now forms the modern manor of Mayfield.

The hundred of Loxfield in its integrity comprised the above named parishes, and those of Isfield, Uckfield, and Buxted. At the Reformation it was divided into two; the southern, including these last-named parishes, was called Loxfield Dorset; the northern being called Loxfield Neville; these names changing with the owners; and it has consequently been called Loxfield Neville, Loxfield May, Loxfield Baker, Loxfield Pelham, and lastly Loxfield Camden, which name it still bears.

As regards the manor, this hundred, or half-hundred as it is sometimes called, contains about 24,400 acres, and nearly coincides with the manor. Whether or not it were part of the said manor of Malling, Mr. W. Courthope thinks it certainly belonged to the archbishops; and he tells how, upon the Conquest, William Earl of Eu obtained from his kinsman the whole rape of Hastings, but not content with his share of the spoil, he invaded the territory of the archbishops, and seized upon that part of the hundred of Loxfield, now Bibleham, which, though lying within the parishes of Mayfield and Wadhurst, is in the rape of Hastings and hundred of Shogswell and Hawksborough. That it continued nevertheless a debateable land may be gathered from the fact that in the various grants and inquisitions touching the barony of Hastings, the manor of Bibleham is invariably named as part thereof, which mention would have been unnecessary had it from the beginning formed an integral portion of that rape. Camden in his "Magna Britannia" states that there was a Norman family called Hasting. William de Hasting, beheaded by Richard III., died possessed of the castle, lordship, and rape of Hastings, which were forfeited, but restored to his son by Henry VII., and confirmed to him by Henry VIII. They were conveyed by one

of his descendants to Thomas Pelham of Laughton, with the manors of Crowhurst, Burwash, and Bivelham, in consideration of the sum of £2,500, and a reserved rent of £13 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum. The perpetuity of it was granted and confirmed by James I. in the year 1605. Sir William Burrell's MSS. (A.D. 1777) state that Thomas Lord Pelham was the then proprietor of the Honour of Hastings, which is paramount to almost all the manors in the rape.*

In 1279, we learn that Bibleham mansion house was estimated at a rental of 40*s.* per acre; that it possessed a park and a demesne of more than 400 acres, also a water-mill estimated at 4 marks per acre; the whole annual value amounting to £31 15*s.* 4*d.* After a few years, in 1334, the mansion house is described as nothing worth; the garden, 4 acres, valueless by reason of the sterility of the trees, and, returning a rental of 2*d.* per acre, as a pasture ground. No further mention is made of the park, which appears to have been converted into arable land, and the annual value of the whole is given as £16 10*s.* 3*d.* Eight years after, even the water-mill is described as ruinous, and the value of the lands reduced to about £14. These extents afford curious particulars, not only of the value of the lands, but of the services which were required by the lord from his customary or bond tenants, so called from being bound to perform certain services for the lands held by them. In 1279 the marled land of the manor, estimated at 200 acres, was worth, per acre, 8*d.* The arable land, not marled, estimated at 85 acres, was worth, per acre, 4*d.* The barren land in the park, estimated at 20 acres, was worth, per acre, 9*d.* The mowing land estimated at 12 acres, was worth, per acre, 2*s.* A heath of 30 acres was considered worth, on the whole, 3*s.* The herbage and pannage of the woodland, of which there were 180 acres, 5*s.* per acre, and the value of the wood, cut and sold, 4 marks. The water-mill was valued at 4 marks, and the rental payable from certain customary tenants 68*s.* 9½*d.* per annum, besides certain duties which they owed the lord. The free tenants paid a rent of £4 12*s.* 2*d.* In 1334 the arable land—234 acres—varied in annual value from 2*d.* to 11*d.* per acre. The water-mill had depreciated in value from 4 marks to 16*s.* 8*d.* The rents of assize were £8 16*s.* 0*d.* besides a cock and

* Sussex has for centuries been divided into six rapes (each rape containing several hundreds), a term peculiar to the county. By some, this division into rapes has been ascribed to Alfred the Great. The derivation of the word is obscure; it may signify a rope, from the Anglo-Saxon *rap*, as it was a practice among the Teutonic tribes to set out allotments by means of a rope.

12 hens, the former worth 1*d.*, the latter ½*d.* each. The services to be performed by the customary or bond tenants were as follows: There were 11 of them who were bound to plough 6 acres of land; the value of which work was estimated at 3*d.* Each of them was to harrow 1 day with 1 man and 1 horse; the value of which was 1*d.* a day. Each likewise was bound to cart manure with his own cart with 2 horses, or 2 oxen, for 1 day each; this was estimated at 2*d.* a day. Likewise there were 6 bond tenants bound to assist in filling the carts, which was estimated at 1½*d.* a day each. On all these occasions the lord was to find them in food during the time they were occupied. While mowing the lord's land, each tenant was to have 2 meals a day. While doing various other kinds of work, 1 meal a day; and as the value of their work to the lord was reckoned at 1½*d.* when they had 2 meals, and 2*d.* when they had 1, it follows that the value of a labourer's meal was estimated at ½*d.**

The early history of Mayfield can only be traced by means of deeds from various sources; chiefly those executed at the Palace by the Primates, to be found at the Record Office or mentioned in the Registers at Lambeth Palace.

Though the Palace, or "chief Manor House," as it is usually called in these deeds, may at first have been intended merely as a resting-place for the archbishops on their journeys, it evidently soon became a favourite resort, as may be inferred from its name, the importance of its buildings, and the number of deeds executed here by different primates, who, at whatever date their rule began, had in and after the thirteenth century absolute jurisdiction in their "peculiars," and admitted of no interference. The earliest deeds in existence known to have been executed here, are those of Archbishop Boniface, of Savoy,† who in 1260 obtained for the manor of Mayfield (spelt Magefeud) a charter from Henry III. granting Markets and Fairs. The market for corn and seeds was to be held on Thursday in each week. The fair was to be held on three consecutive days—the vigil, day, and morrow of St. Dunstan (May 18th, 19th, and 20th). It was a very early custom to fix the fairs on the day of the saint to which the church was dedicated, as the people of the surrounding district gathered together for the Church festival and the business of the fair combined. The fair was

"The offspring of an immemorial antiquity whose very name ('Feria' or Saint's Day) betrays its origin in the ancient gatherings at feasts,

* Courthope MSS. Coll. of Arms.

† These charters were among the records in the Tower, and were first brought to notice by Mr. W. Courthope in 1841.

heathen or Christian, and reveals it as an institution derived from old tribal and national usages—gradually expanding in later times with the growth of the royal prerogative and necessities of commerce; and drawing to its miscellaneous gatherings strange merchants fetched from far and near, the fair had a brilliant history of its own; it had given birth to universal commerce and watched over its growth. . . . The market had another origin. . . . With all its air of being the very work and possession of the people, the market was by descent no popular or tribal right; it was the King's prerogative; its tolls and customs were regulated by the authority of the justices of the King's Bench, and its prices were proclaimed by the King's clerk of the market. . . . The whole market system in England grew up by means of royal grants and monopolies to individuals or to corporations. Between the years 1200 and 1482, almost 5000 local centres of organised trade were established by grants of markets and fairs." *

The grants of fairs and markets in the thirteenth century were about 3,300; in the fourteenth century about 1,560; in the fifteenth century to the year 1482, about 100.†

In 1314, the day of the market at Mayfield was changed to Tuesday and the fair diminished to two days—the vigil and morrow of St. Dunstan. Later, again, the fair lasted three days, and a second one, also of three days, was held on the vigil, morrow, and day of All Souls (Nov. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd). These fairs continue to be held for cattle and sheep on the 30th of May and the 13th of November, for the Feasts of St. Dunstan and All Souls, the change never having been made from Old Style.

The vicarage of Mayfield was endowed by Archbishop Boniface in 1262, with the altarage, the corn tithes of Hyordherst, certain land which belonged to Boterell, and seven acres of woodland pertaining to the said church or rectory. The archbishop, who held the great tithes, agreed to keep the chancel of the church in repair and provide the books and vestments necessary for the divine offices. The original instrument of endowment was copied into Islep's register in the following century, and to this circumstance we owe its preservation.‡

Before the close of the century the rectory of Mayfield had been appropriated towards the sustenance of the table of the archbishop at his palace at Mayfield, also to the exercise of hospitality within the parish; and as such was exempt from the payment of the tenths and fifteenths granted from time to time to the King: and we find a

* "Town Life in the Fifteenth Century." Mrs. J. R. Green.

† Report on Markets. ‡ Reg. Islep f. 347 b.

letter from Archbishop Peckham to the Dean of South Malling, in 1284, prohibiting accordingly the payment of such sums.*

We have no further particular mention of the rectory until we find it recorded that Robert Winchelsey, who filled the archiepiscopal chair from 1292 till 1313, devoted to the service of the poor at Mayfield, and other indigent persons, all the profits of the rectory, reserving only sufficient for the repairs of the house and church. This does not well accord with the substance of an indenture found in a chartulary of Christ Church, Canterbury, by which Archbishop Langton, at some period between 1205 and 1228 (the time he occupied the see) grants the church of Mayfield as an endowment for a fifth prebend in the church of South Malling ; but as this later event occurred prior to the endowment of the vicarage, it either only remained in force till that time, or possibly it never took effect at all.

Archbishop Boniface was succeeded by Robert Kilwardby, but there is only one deed of his existing, dated from Mayfield.

The next primate, John Peckham, was a native of Sussex, who received his early education at the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes.

It is during his primacy that the first notice occurs in the archiepiscopal registers of Mayfield Palace, when on the Kalends of July, 1279, he received here the homage of three of his great tenants, viz., Roger de la Warr, a baron, and ancestor of Earl De La Warr ; Richard de Waleis, ancestor of General Trevor, lord of the manor of Bibleham ; and Henry de Berham, Lord of Berham, great-nephew of Sir Reginald FitzUrse, one of the murderers of Becket. Peckham was here likewise in the February and March following, and on the 6th of the Kalends of the latter month (24th Feb.) he despatched here a letter to Richard Bishop of London concerning certain causes then pending in the archiepiscopal court. He was resident also in August, 1285, and in March, 1287.

It is possible Peckham made additions to the palace ; some of the earliest work bears mark of being about this date. He is said to have spent, before the year 1284, 2,000 marks in building and repairing some of his manor houses or other dwellings ; also that he owned a palace at Tarble Down in Framfield ; and members of

* (1) Reg. de Pecheham f. 118 b. (2) The tenths and fifteenths were grants of certain fractional parts of movables commencing in 1188, and gradually settling down to a fifteenth for the counties and a tenth for the towns, which prevailed for more than three centuries. In 1334 a fifteenth and tenth was fixed at a certain sum for each township, and after this date a grant of one or more "fifteenths and tenths" meant simply a grant according to the scale then fixed. (Dowell, vol. III., p. 75.)

his family long resided in the same parish. (The name of Peckham or Packham is still by no means uncommon in Sussex.) He died in 1292, and left large sums of money to his relatives, notwithstanding the fact that he had spent so much on building during his lifetime.

He was succeeded in the year following by Robert de Winchelsea. There are records of large charities given by him to the poor of Mayfield, where he spent a considerable portion of his time. He passed here the summer months of 1296, and during that period held an ordination on the Vigil of the Holy Trinity.

In 1298, on the 23rd August, we find him issuing here his letters for a general thanksgiving for the successful issue of the king's wars in Scotland, which had just terminated by the defeat of Sir William Wallace at the battle of Falkirk. In the January and February following he was in like manner at Mayfield. In December, 1301, he again visited this manor house, remaining till the February following; for we find that on the Saturday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, he rode over to Wadhurst in order to hold an ordination; and, on the 26th of the same month, he created Sir William de Malsop seneschall of all his lands. On the 10th January he issued hence a mandate to the prior of the cathedral church of Worcester.

Upon Easter Even in 1305 Winchelsea held an ordination at Mayfield, and in March 1308 four of his instruments are dated here. The latest period at which he appears to have been at the palace was April, 1311.*

It is recorded that soon after this archbishop's death, one William Andrew of Mayfield on becoming blind, was taken by his wife to pray for recovery at his tomb in Canterbury Cathedral, and that the man was cured.

The letter of Winchelsea calling on all suffragans to hold a service of praise to God for the success of King Edward I. in the Scotch Wars has been mentioned; and the earliest instances we have for a taxation for the town of Mayfield is for the expenses of these same Scotch Wars in 1295, when a subsidy of an eleventh and a seventh was authorised by the Parliament which Edward I. had summoned at Westminster before his first invasion of Scotland. The original roll, giving the results of the tax in Sussex, is in existence, and is a most perfect and clear record. It consists of twenty skins of parchment, on one side of which the taxpayers of

* Courthope MSS. Coll. of Arms.

the three eastern rapes of the county are written in three long parallel columns, arranged in hundreds; while the other side of it is occupied by similar columns of the three western rapes. The translation of its Latin title is as follows: "The eleventh of the County of Sussex in the 24th year of the reign of King Edward"; and the indorsement runs thus: "Eleventh of the County of Sussex. Philip de Waleby, deputy of W. de Langton, treasurer, received this roll on the 7th day of May in the 24th year by the hands of Robert de Basele and Master William de Ireton, the taxers and collectors of the 11th and 7th in the County of Sussex."

The names of such inhabitants as were taxed, and the sums for which they were assessed, are as follows:—

VILLATA DE MAGHEFELD.

	s.	*d.*
Thomas, son of Ralph ate Timbe	5	5½
William de Dodeslond	5	6¾
John Forestar	5	8¾
Thomas ate Berghe		14½
William de Haddeleghe	2	4¾
Ralph Saltere		15¾
John Pistor	2	0
William Jopes		16½
Andrew Turnur		18½
Beatrice, relict of Button	2	1
Symon Marchant		20¾
Nicholas Strodherde		23
Walter Achoman		14¼
Nicholas Hamund		14¼
Alan Herth		21¾
Symon Fre		20¾
William Maister		18
William Cupere	2	2½
Margery Gorulf		13½
William Kukku		21¾
Matthew Lomb	2	10
Ralph Taliur		17½
Jordan Botererl		19¼
Gilbert Huchon		17½
Simon Glover		20¾
Nicholas Fabre	4	1¼
William Cole		2¼

This does not include that part of Mayfield in Bibleham quarter, as the inhabitants of Bibleham are rated in the hundred of Hawks-

borough — not of Loxfield. For this part, we have the following names:—

VILLAT: DE BYVYLHAM.

	s.	d.
Godfrey Waleys	7	2
Johan de Mardon	7	0
Adam atte Cumbe	10	11
Gilbert de Waneburn	4	2
Matthew de Cumbdenn	3	0
Stephen de Cumbdenn	3	3½
John Wylekyn	4	0
John atte Hechetun	3	0
Matilda atte Hechetun	3	0
Matthew de Shonyngherst	3	0
Peter atte Teehe	6	1½
William Josmyth	2	5½
Gilbert atte Forde		22
William Mone	2	0
Gilbert Meryweder		12
Henry Luggre	3	4½
Peter de Chillehop	3	0
Isabel de Bayndenn	3	7½
Symon de Bayndenn	3	4½
Matilda de Byvylham		12
Hugh de Waneburn		12

From this assessment it will be seen that in the year 1295 Bibleham was the rich quarter of Mayfield. It may be noticed that some of the farms in the parish still bear the names by which they were known in that day, while others bear the names of the then owners. We have "William of Dodlesland" (Dudsland), "William of Haddeleghe" (Hadlow), "Ralph Saltere" (Salter's Green), "Beatrice, relict of Button" (Buttons), "Gilbert Huchon" (Huchens). And in the Bibleham quarter we have "Adam atte Cumbe" (Coomb), "Gilbert Meryweder" (Merryweather), "Peter of Chillehop" (Gillhope), "Isabel of Bayndenn" (Bainden), "Matilda of Byvylham" (Bibleham), "Henry Luggre" (Luggers Crouch).

In the year 1328, the first year of Edward III., parliament again voted a grant of a twentieth, on the king's return from an unsuccessful expedition to the north, to avenge the inroad made by the Scots under their famous leaders Randolph and Douglas. The writ for its collection in the county of Sussex, setting forth the depredations committed in the said invasion, is dated at Lincoln on the 23rd November, directed to William de North, and John at Sea. In this

roll the names of the inhabitants of the two towns of Mayfield and Wadhurst (except such as resided in the Manor of Bibleham) are taken conjointly. Among them we may notice "Walter Alwyne," who was in all probability the owner of "Aylwins," "Lawrence Horlegh," from whom probably the farm "Horleigh Green" took its name, "Isabella of Ludwele" (Loudwell Farm), "Nicholas le Mist" (the Mist), "James of Mouleshale" (Mousehall), "Richard of Bonehurst" (Bungehurst), and "William Dosy," the proprietor from whom probably "Doozes Farm" took its title.

It was, however, not only the proprietors of land who derived their name from their place of residence, for, throughout these rolls, and in other documents of the time, there are numerous instances of men in a humble rank of life being identified by their Christian name prefixed to some local object near which they lived; indeed the word "atte" seems in all cases to denote the dwelling-place. Personal appearance or peculiarities often gave a person a surname. The French article "le," which appears before many names, is taken generally to indicate either some personal quality or some trade or occupation. It was not until about the middle of the fourteenth century that family surnames were commonly used. Those on the lists of 1328 and 1332 have a decidedly more modern sound than those quoted in 1295, and among them are several still familiar to us, such as Baker, Fry, Stone, Wickens (spelled Wyckyn), Courthope, Collins (spelled Colyn) and others. To take the name Fry. We can trace its evolution from Symon *Fre* in 1295 to Simon Le *Frie*, and finally to John Le *Frye* in 1332. Buss, again, first appears as le Bousse, then as le Bussh. Taylor is spelled Taliur in the first roll, and later it appears in the more modern guise of Taillour.

VILLAT DE MAGHEFELD ET WADEHURST.

John le Cade, Thomas atte Cumbe, William le Cade, John Baker, Walter Aylwyne, Laurence de Horlegh, Andrew le Turnour, Hamon de Stonlegh, Relict of Thomas atte Pote, Henry de Wodeslonde, Robert Saptan, William Weneman, Robert Yerdherst, Isabella de Ludwelle, Simon Marchaunt, Simon le Frie, William Virgil, Rose Wevere, Gilbert Hucharm, John de Istede, Gilbert Scrymond, Nicholas le Mist, John Petuon, Howestote de Hodlegh, Marg^{t}. Sweting, John atte Welle, Adam de Courthope, James de Mouleshale, Thomas Brown, John Le Hurt, William de Tokinghersh, John Le Fransh, Walter Wabbe, Richard de Borgome, John de Wanebourne, Marg^{t}. . . . otasfeld, John . . . ., William Le Hert, Peter Taillour, Robert de Bonewater, William Rikeward, Alice de Everesfeld, Gilbert atte Lymene, William le Bussh, Gilbert Curtais, Simon de Istede, William de Haddelegh, John Wykyn, Christiana Boton,

John le Bakere, Robert Cade, Robert Hamond, Thomas le Mist, Relict of Princle, John le Turnour, Isabel de Lockesford, Simon Cole, Peter le Bothe, Matilda de Aylardenne, Matthew Cade, Relict of le Erl, William de Boghaldebrugh, Stephen Donngate, Juliana de Mouleshale, John atte Halle, William Pilcher, Peter Oderne, John Pilcher, Geoffrey Shorfam, Robert Carpenter, Richard de Bonehurst, Agnes de Arlegh, Agnes atte Water, Henry Cok.

Taxors: Richard atte Stone
Henry de Combe.

The sum total amounted to £9. Juliana de Mouleshale seems to have been the richest lady in the parish, as her proportion of this sum amounted to 8*s.* Next comes John Petuon who paid 6*s.* 3*d.* James de Mouleshale and John —— (name illegible) paid 6*s.*; while John le Cade paid 4*s.* 6½*d.*, and William le Cade 4*s.* 3*d.* Matilda de Aylardenne was another well-to-do lady who paid 5*s.* 6*d.* The lowest sum at which anyone was assessed was 6*d.**

For Bibleham quarter we find these names in the same subsidy:—

VILLAT: DE BYVELHAM.

Godfrey Waleis, John Alecok, William atte Forde, Walter atte Ree, William Dosy, John atte Hegheton, Gilbert de Wenebourne, Gilbert de Shotingherst, Richard de Bonesherst, Adam atte Combe, Walter atte Rea, Robert de Sharndene, John atte Forde, Richard atte Forde, Stephen atte Re, Peter Guliot, Stephen de Cumden, Robert atte Newehose, Robert atte Shotingherst, Walter Burdon, John de Beniden, Simon de Cumden.

The total sum amounted to 50*s.* 0¼*d.*; Godfrey Waleis, the Lord of the Manor of Bibleham, paid 7*s.* 2*d.*; Robert de Sharnedene came next, paying 5*s.*; Adam atte Combe and Stephen de Cumden paid 3*s.*; and the lowest assessment was 7¼*d.*

The same plan was pursued in collecting the subsidy of 6 Edw. III. (1332), a subsidy of one-tenth, which the King demanded under pretence of certain troubles in Ireland, but in reality to furnish an expedition into Scotland, which kingdom he immediately invaded.

VILLAT: DE WADEHERST ET MAGHEFELD.

Elizota de Hothlegh, Laurence de Courtehope, William Palmer, Robert Halpeny, William Beghildebrugg, Stephen Downgate, Peter Oderne, Adam de Rysdenne, Roger de Beregg, Agnes atte Watere, William Lyghtfote, William Denays, John de Waneburn, John le Hourt,

* Rot. Pat. 24 Edw. I. No. 22. Lay subsidies 189, 1; and Rot. Pat. 1 Edw. III. p. 3, m. 18, Cedul. Lay subs., 189, 3.

Christian Pulcher, Matilda Mapelherst, John de Betesfeld, Richard atte Halle, Richard Oderne, John Pulcher, John Colyn, James de Mouleshale, Alice de Tokyngersh, William Walays, Matilda de Aillardenne, Thomas Brown, Henry Dodeslond, William le Hert, William le Bousse, Peter le Beche, John de Yerdherst, William Deneman, Laurence de Horlegh, Robert Setter, Alan Sage, Robert de Sapertone, Richard Phyrlok, John Cade, Gilbert de Eversfeld, John Gilberd, Hamon de Stonlegh, Simon de Isted, John de Isted, William le Red, Gilbert atte Lymene, Simon Wevere, Simon Wolfan, Robert Cade, John Wilkyn, William Cade, William Lepard, Nicholas le Mist, Thomas Pryncle, Gilbert Huchon, Isabel Virgyle, John le Hert, John le Frye, Julia Serymond, Robert Carpenter, John Cade, John Ponte, Peter le Tayllur, Alice de Eversfeld, John de Nywenham, Richard le Reg, Gilbert Curtays, Robert de Yerdhurst, Robert Hamon, Richard le Cade, Robert le Coche, William de Bayndenne, Isabel Virgile, James atte Venele, Matthew Cade, Margery Swetyng, John atte Welle, Laurence de Wanebourn, Richard atte Frythe, Alexander de Arlegh, William Henry, Gilbert Coggere, Richard Burdon, John de Muleshale, Thomas atte Red, William de Leveselegh, William le Kent, Laurence le Bont, Laurence atte Erowe, Relict of Steld, Relict of Chomcele, Roger Gregory, William de Crouherst, Robert de Berklegh, Robert de Berklegh junior, Laurence atte Wode, Relict of John atte Pelle, Laurence Saunere, Relict of Colet, John le Cat, John Martyn, Nicholas Pilcher, Elya atte Melle, William de Beregy, Walter Cokerel, Alan le Wayte, Zabar Sutor, Reginald de Beteryndenne, John Chyllye.

The sum raised was £9 10*s.* 3½*d.*

The rolls containing the grants of fifteenths and tenths, in the 8th and 10th Edw. III. (1334 and 1336), made with the view of forwarding the King's designs upon Scotland, do not enumerate the names of individuals, but only give the gross amounts of taxation for each parish or township, and in this case for the townships of Mayfield and Wadhurst jointly the amount was in both instances £12.*

It was while Robert de Winchelsea was Archbishop of Canterbury that King Edward I. three times visited Mayfield. The accounts of that monarch's journeys are preserved among the rolls and documents formerly in the Tower of London, now at the Record Office. They show that, during a tour in Sussex, he came to "Maghefeld" on May 30th, 1297, and again on the 22nd of June, in 1299; when a fee of 12*d.* was given to the messenger of Sir Thomas de Burgherse (Burwash) returning to his lord with letters of the King. To the Clerk of the Kitchen, by the hands of Alan de Goldesburgh, saucemaker, at Maghefeld, the sum of 6*s.* was paid.

* Suss. Arch. Colls. Vol. XXI.

(The salsarius, or saucemaker, was the officer in the king's kitchen, whose duty it was to provide all condiments and spices, delivering each article out by weight, and standing by the mortar while they were duly pounded.) The opportunity was also taken to levy fines for short weights. The entry stands thus :—

"From the vill of Maghefeld, in fine for the transgression of their measures, and for other transgressions, by the hand of Nicholas Hammond, at Maghefeld, June 22nd, 6*s.* 8*d.*; from Thomas Gaynard and Walter Cosbyn, bakers, Mayfield, a fine, found in the deficiency of their bread, 6*s.* 8*d.*"

(This Walter Cosbyn is probably the same man as is mentioned among the inhabitants of Mayfield who were taxed in 1296, under the name of Walter Pistor, as "Pistor" means "baker.") Wadhurst also had fines imposed at the same time. The 22nd of June being the feast of St. Alban, according to the Roman Calendar, the king gave offerings at a chantry or chapel, dedicated to St. Alban, which was attached to the church. These offerings amounted to 7*s.*

On June 28th, 1303, during his last journey in Sussex, Edward I. again paid a visit to Mayfield, and travelled on the next day to Goudhurst and Lamberhurst. Some curious information can be gleamed from these records of customs prevalent, and of prices of various articles at this time. Thus, when Edward went on from Mayfield to Uckfield, we find this entry :—

"To the clerk of the pantry, for his office, for 82 gallons of beer, bought from Arnald de Ukfeld, the host of the king there, the same day 6*s.* 10*d.*"

(Beer was then made from any grain, and served at table fresh spiced with pepper and other condiments ; it would not keep, hops being then unknown.)

A hundred gallons of beer cost 8*s.* 4*d.*; 7 sheep, 10*s.* 4*d.*; 1 ox, 9*s.*; oats, 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; a grey mule fetched 30*s.* While the King was at Chichester, buying the new harness, and mending some old, cost 27*s.* Faggots and litter cost 3*s.* 8*d.*, and grass 4*s.* 7*d.* To a steward for 12 days' expenses, "going and returning" (in fact his travelling expenses for 12 days), 2*s.* The King's dogs, which are numerous, were rated at ½*d.* a day each for their keep. Six ells of English russett, at 2*s.* the ell, were supplied from the royal wardrobe to "William de Rude, the King's foxhunter, going to Sussex by order of the King." He took with him 9 greyhounds and 2 helpers. In another place, 27 deerhounds, 23 harriers, 3 beagles, 20 stag-

hounds and various other dogs, are mentioned as being in Sussex with the King.

Walter Reynolds, who succeeded Robert de Winchelsea in 1313, also wrote various letters from Mayfield, showing that he, at times, resided there, but they are of little importance. From his register we find the value of the rectory was 90 marks, or £60, at which sum it had been taxed in 1291.

He was followed in 1328 by Simon Meopham, who was more identified with Mayfield than his immediate predecessor.

A Provincial Synod was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, in January, 1330, to deal with matters of morals and of Church discipline, and several other Councils were convened by the Archbishop, either for meeting the royal demands for money, or for the purpose of enforcing discipline. In the year 1332, one of these Councils or Synods, called "Consilium Maghfeldense," was held at Mayfield to regulate festivals and holidays, proof enough that it was then a goodly town, since it must have been able to afford accommodation for the numerous retinues of bishops and other great dignitaries of the Church, who, from all parts of Southern England, must have been present on the occasion. It must have been a picturesque and busy scene that day, such as probably the place has never since presented; with its thronging crowd of bishops and clergy, who, with their retinues and armed escorts, must have travelled hither on horseback, by rough and dirty ways, which, two or three hundred years later, were still matters of much complaint.

The result of the meeting appears in a circular letter addressed by the Archbishop particularly to the Bishop of Salisbury. In it he affirms that "holidays, which were designed for the promotion of God's glory, are too often profaned by rioting and drunkenness and all manner of iniquity." He enjoins the clergy to represent to those under them to observe these feasts with reverend solemnity, and desires each diocesan to teach the people "that the Lord's Day is to begin on the Saturday before, but must not on that account be confounded with the Jewish Sabbath." The letter concludes with the words, "Given at Maghefeld, 16, Aug., A.D. 1332, and the fifth year of our consecration."

The Archbishop was unpopular. One cause of his unpopularity may have been that soon after his consecration he commanded a provincial visitation, which involved both bishops and clergy in considerable expense. The unsettled state of the country rendered it necessary that he should be attended by a large retinue and by armed men. His daily expenses were said to amount to £24, a large

sum, as we have seen, in those days. He seems to have travelled with a company of about eighty horsemen, and, assuming that the horses had to be fed, and the riders entertained, at the expense of several parishes, and that the Archbishop and his train were unlikely to be content with very homely fare, we can imagine these visitations of his were no light burden. Also, minute inquiries were made into offences, and delinquents were punished with severity, as a part of the routine of the visitations. He did not find peace at Canterbury, as he became involved in a controversy with the monks of St. Augustine, who claimed over the parishes of which they were impropriators a jurisdiction free from episcopal control. The monks appealed to the Pope, who delegated Icherius, a canon of Salisbury, to hear the cause, a man who had already prejudged the case. The Archbishop, instead of appearing before him, went to his house at Slindon, whence the commissioners of the papal court followed him to compel him to appear. On their demanding admittance, they were only allowed as far as the court, where the servants of the Archbishop (who was in bed at the time) only abused them, and made game of them. The proctor of the Augustinians could hardly restrain his rage; and so exasperated were the papal company at the behaviour of the retainers, that their men-at-arms drew their swords, and a pitched battle ensued. The Archbishop's people seized Aymeric, rector of the leper hospital in London, and on seeing that his tonsure was imperfect, when his cap fell to the ground, they ordered the barber to shave him, and in order to cleanse his hair, threw several gallons of water over him. The proctor meanwhile tried to escape on horseback, but, being a poor rider, was hunted down by his enemies, who overtook him at Petworth, and brought him back in triumph to Slindon.

Of course the monks were not slow to inform the Pope how shamefully his representatives had been used; but the Archbishop still refused to pay the sum of £1,210, which had been imposed as a fine by Icherius, and stated that he was ill at the time of the disturbance, and therefore could not prevent it. He was then pronounced contumacious, and declared excommunicate.

Not long after, being at his Palace of Mayfield, the Bishop of Rochester going to visit him the Sunday after the Virgin Mary's Assumption, 1333, found him sitting very pensive and dejected; and upon his endeavouring to comfort him by advising him to get absolved from the excommunication, the Archbishop made answer that he was little concerned for that; nevertheless he survived not many days, dying there on Tuesday morning after St. Paul's Day,

October 12th, 1333. His body was conveyed to Canterbury Cathedral, and buried in the Chapel of St. Peter; but not till after the Abbot of St. Augustine, and the Archbishop his successor, had taken off the excommunication.* Among letters of Christ Church, Canterbury, is one to the prior from Master Robert de Weston at Mayfield about the funeral arrangements.†

The registers of John de Stratford, who succeeded him, are missing; therefore we have nothing to show whether in the earlier days of his primacy he resided at Mayfield. No deeds of his seem to have been executed here; we are only told that, "Weary of business, he sought quiet retirement at his manor of Mayfield."

When he resided here, thirteen poor persons presented themselves every morning, to receive each a loaf of bread and one penny from the Archbishop's own hands. At noon thirteen other poor people made their appearance, who dined at his table, and at their departure also received a loaf and a penny. The fragments left on his hospitable board were carefully collected, that nothing might be lost, and sent with his benediction to those among the poor who were too infirm to present themselves at the gates.

There are interesting notices by a contemporary of his being executor of his own will, and of his charitable donations to the parish. "Having," says the writer, "been much occupied by his pastoral charge, he was seized with illness at Maidstone, and growing daily weaker, he was conveyed to Mayfield, where, having made his will, he distributed all his bequests before his death."

The Nona Roll of 1341 gives some details concerning the tithes at Mayfield. It appears that the ninth of sheaves was valued at £30 (which included the ninth of sheaves of Michelham Park, 10*s.*), and the ninth of fleeces and lambs 3*s.* 4*d.*; the sum being £30 3*s.* 4*d.* It is added that in the taxation of the church at £60 is included the manor, belonging to the said rectory, with its appurtenances, worth £10 yearly; also the tithe of hay valued at £10; also the fourth part of the tithes of the parish belonging to the Prior of Ledes by composition with the Archbishop, valued at 10 marks. Moreover, certain land is enclosed in Fraunkhame Park, which used to be cultivated, and then the tithes yielded 10*s.*; also there are in the manor of Bivelhame two carucates of land, and John de Wadeherst holds one carucate of land in the parish which this year lies uncultivated, from which the tithe of wheat is usually valued at 30*s.* The sum total of the above is £58 16*s.* 8*d.*, so that there

* Courthope MSS. Coll. of Arms.

† Hist. MSS. Com. Vol. I.

is a deficiency from the extent of the said church of Maghefeld of 23*s.* 4*d.**

In the registers of Simon Islip is a further mention of the rectory, showing that in 38 Edward III. (1364) that Archbishop granted to John Cogger and his lawful heirs the right of pasturage in Cortwode and Pondesheved, both appertaining to the glebe of the church of Maghefeld "appropriated to our table," yielding for the same the yearly sum of 11*s.* 6*d.* †

By reference to the signature of Islip attached to various documents, it is seen that he was resident here from May to September in 1350, from April to July in 1352, in February 1357, in March 1361, from January 1362 until the July of the year following, and from August 1364 until his death in 1366. The see had been impoverished by Archbishop Stratford, but it does not appear that the splendid hospitality usual when an archbishop entertained royal visitors in the Palace of Canterbury was curtailed when in May 1357, the Prince of Wales (Edward the Black Prince) arrived there with his prisoner, John, King of France; and it is admitted that in repairing edifices belonging to the see, he displayed not only munificence, but much taste in architecture. He is said to have found all the buildings so decayed that not one was habitable. He succeeded in obtaining from the administrators of his predecessor, Stratford, a large sum for the dilapidations of the palace (said to be 1000 marks—£666 13*s.* 4*d.*—equal to about £15,000 of our money). He obtained a bull for a tenth from his clergy, and repaired or rebuilt the residences. He pulled down the house at Wrotham, and rebuilt that at Maidstone with the materials. He enlarged and repaired Lambeth Palace; and though we have nothing recorded about this manor-house of Mayfield, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion, looking at the style of the building, than that Islip rebuilt the greater part of it, and built the hall on a grander scale. He committed great waste in timber in the forests near, and this may be taken as conclusive evidence of the time of the additions to the house. ‡

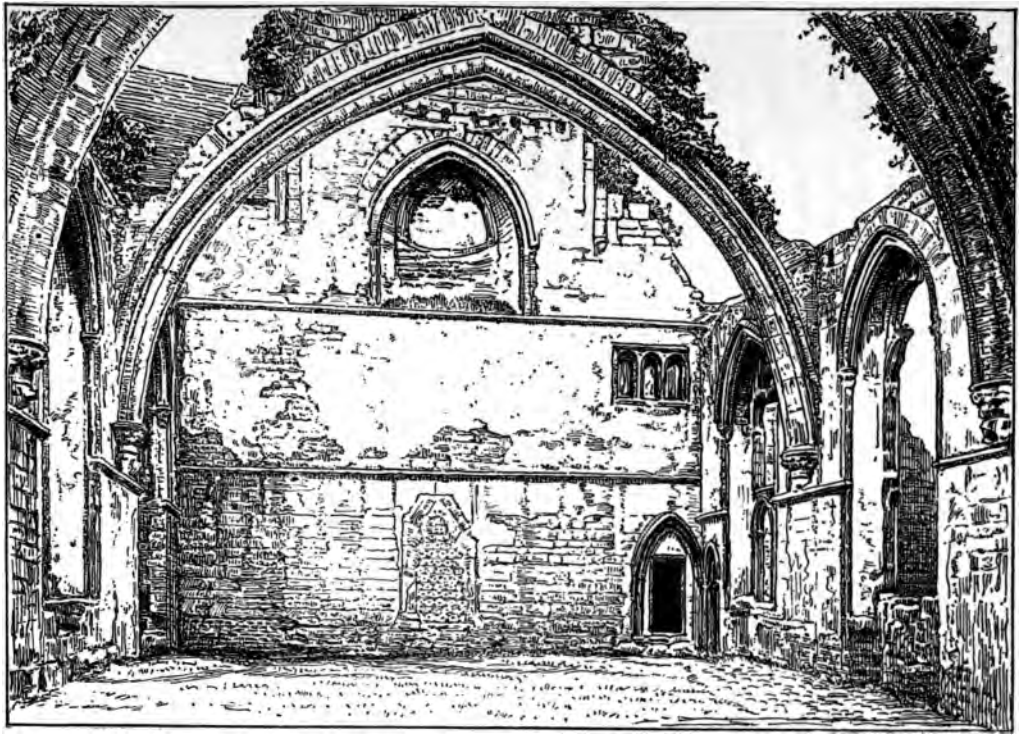
S. de Birchington, who is the authority for this statement, says, "He wasted more oak timber in the Dourdennes (Weald of Sussex) for his new buildings than any of his predecessors."

It was in Islip's time also that the park attached to the Palace

* Inquisitiones Nonarum, p. 376.

† Reg. Islep., f. 206, a.

‡ E. Roberts, F.S.A. Arch. Ass. Vol. XXIII.



THE BANQUETING HALL, MAYFIELD PALACE.

was increased to seventy-four acres; for which he obtained a patent, translated as follows :—

For Simon (Islip,) Archbishop of Canterbury. The King to to all his bailiffs and faithful (subjects), to whom (these letters shall come, sendeth) greeting. Know that of our special grace we have granted and given licence for ourselves and our heirs to the venerable father, Simon, Archbishop of Canterbury, and parson of the church of Maghfeld, that he can acquire sixty and fourteen acres of land, with the appurtenances, contiguous to the park belonging to the aforesaid church, which (church) the same Archbishop holds to his own uses, which (the acres) are of the own proper fee of the same Archbishop, and which the tenants of the same Archbishop hold of the same fee, of the same tenants, and include in his aforesaid park for the enlargement of the same, and hold that park thus enlarged with the same sixty and fourteen acres as parcel of the rectory of the said church of Maghfeld, to himself and his successors, Archbishops of Canterbury, as parsons of the church aforesaid, annexed to the spirituality of the same Archbishop and his successors, in free, pure, and perpetual alms, as freely, and in the same manner as the same Archbishop and his predecessors, parsons of the aforesaid church, held the aforesaid ancient park, before the said sixty and fourteen (acres) of land were included and annexed to the same park, without molestation or hindrance from us or our heirs, justices, foresters, verderers, regarders or other of our servants of forest whomsoever, and except what certain bailiffs or servants of us or our heirs, at the times of vacancies of the said archbishopric, or otherwise at future times, may take possession * thereof. In witness whereof, etc. Witness the King at Westminster, 9 May (1354). (Patent Roll 28 Edward III., Part I., M. 10.)

"A large proportion of our ancient parks were for the especial use of the bishops and dignified clergy. The Archbishops of Canterbury had more than 20 parks or chases attached to the See, of which one was that at Mayfield. Ultimately upward of 400 acres were included in it under the name of Frankham Park; and fish ponds 9 acres in size attested the care for the welfare of the reverend prelates on fast days. It is delineated in the map of Sussex in Camden's 'Britannia' (Gibson's ed., 1782)." †

Of the many occurrences which here took place in Islip's time,

* Cf. the Scotch law term "intromission."

† "Parks and Forests of Sussex." Ellis.

and instruments issued hence, the following are the most remarkable :—

1350. 28 May. An injunction to chaplains to serve cures for moderate stipends.

20 August. An order issued in obedience to the King's commands, to offer up public prayers for success against the Spanish fleet.

This was previous to the famous battle of "Lespagnols sur Mer," which took place off Winchelsea on August the 29th; of which Froissart gives a graphic description.

5 September. Citation to the Bishop of Lincoln to answer for contempt.

1352. Letter to the Vicar of Wadhurst, prohibiting the tithing of such sheaves as were given to the reapers in payment of their labour.

1354. 31 December. John Forde resigned the Church of All Saints', Canterbury, into the hands of the Archbishop in the hall of the Palace; and on 20th April, 1362, the same ceremony was also performed in the chapel of the Palace by Robert at Putte, who resigned the living of Eggethorne.

1359. 22nd September. Licence issued for the solemnisation of the nuptials of the Princess Mary of England with John Duke of Brittany.

1361. Elizabeth Countess of Kent did penance in the parish church of Mayfield. She was a daughter of the Marquis of Juliers, and widow of John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, and had taken the veil at Waverley. Yet after becoming a nun, she married at Wingham, in 1360, Sir Eustace D'Abrichecourt. For this transgression she and her husband were cited before the Archbishop, at his Manor House of Mayfield, who enjoined them divers penances. They had to find two priests, one to officiate at Wingham, one to be continually with them. They were to say every day the seven penitential Psalms, the fifteen gradual Psalms, and the Litany with placebo and dirige, etc., etc. She must go afoot once every year to the shrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury, and once every week during her life take no other food than bread and a mess of pottage, and to wear no "camisia" or smock. This penance she endured fifty-one years.*

* In "The Castrations" of the last edition of Holinshed's "Chronicle," ed. 1723, we find the following account of this penance :—

"About this time Edward Prince of Wales, after the death of the Bishop of St. Asaph, did chalenge to himself the livings of the bishoprike during the vacancie of the saied See; but the archbishop contending with

Her name occurs in the rolls of Parliament for the year 1411, where it is recorded that all his poor commons granted to the King a subsidy of 6*s.* 8*d.* from every man or woman having in lands or rents £20 a year, and for every additional £20, 6*s.* 8*d.* more to be paid. There were four commissioners appointed for Sussex. Among other entries is the following :—

Richard Pratt has the manor of Ydene, subject to an annuity to the Countess of Kent, with which the said Countess is charged as below, and the manor is worth, beside the annuity, £66 8*s.* Countess of Kent has a certain annuity from said manor of Ydene as aforesaid £8 0*s.* 0*d.*

1362. 31 July. Brother Warisius, of Canterbury, who had been elected Abbot of St. Radegund, otherwise called Bradsole (an Abbey of the Premonstratensian Order of White Canons near Dover), made his profession in the chapel of the manor house.

On the 12th Kal. August (21 July), 1361, John Wickliffe was instituted to the vicarage of Mayfield.

Several circumstances in the life of this individual have been incorporated into the life of John Wickliffe the reformer, with whom he was almost precisely contemporary. Mr. W. Courthope, of the College of Arms, was the first to disentangle the lives and acts of the two men ; and his discovery of the facts is best given in his own words.

In drawing up a list of the vicars of Mayfield, he found the name of Wickliffe, and at first concluded he must undoubtedly have been the reformer. Writing to the late Rev. John Kirby on 28th November, 1840, he says :—

"I have lately obtained from Lambeth Palace a facsimile of Wiklif's Institution. This discovery in the incidents of Wiklif's life has caused quite a sensation in those interested in him. I find upon looking to the

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the prince, and prooving by ancient custome and by the witnesse of the clergie, that the same of right belonged to Canterburie, in the end obteined the same, and about which time Elizabeth, a noble woman, after the death of John Earle of Kente, her husband, became a nun, in which profession, when she had remained certeine yeares, she fell in love with one Eustace Abricourts a Henower, which earnest affection of hirs inforced hir to depart out of the monasterie, and to be married unto him against hir vow, in the morning before daie light without anie banes asking. Whereof when this archbishop (Islip) had knowledge, he punished and bound them yearlie to assign a living unto two chaplains, and besides that they should a long time be injoined the penance of fasting and praier without dissolving the bands of matrimonie."

dates of Islip's instruments, that he resided very much at his palace of Mayfield, and his hearing Wiklif preach no doubt induced him to promote him to the Wardenship of Canterbury College."

Again later :—

"College of Arms,
"31*st July* 1841.

"My dear Sir,—You have not forgot my telling you that I had discovered that John Wiklif the Reformer was for many years Vicar of Mayfield. This presumed discovery led me into a deep investigation of the history of the Reformer's life, which ended in the discovery that all his biographers have been wrong in attributing to him the Mastership of Canterbury Hall College, Oxford, the holder of which I had identified with the Vicar of Mayfield, and as such, with the Reformer, but as all these circumstances are more clearly shewn in the enclosed letter, which I sent to the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' I have enclosed a copy of it for you. . . ."

The letter to the "Gentleman's Magazine" appeared in the August number for 1841 ; and the fact has been clearly established that there were living at this period two John Wickliffes (or Wycliffe) both educated at Oxford, and becoming there the heads of houses. The reformer has been identified as the Master of Balliol. The other was a Fellow of Merton. The Archbishop himself was a Merton man, beside being ex officio visitor of that college. Hence the appointment of John Wyclive first to the Vicarage of Mayfield, and later to the Mastership or Wardenship of the newly founded Canterbury Hall.

Islip's deed of appointment bears date *at Mayfield* 5 id. Dec. (9 Dec.), 1365 ; at which place he had been resident with little intermission from the time at which (as before mentioned) he collated John Wickliffe vicar in 1361 ; and from the manner in which he speaks of the person whom he had appointed to the wardenship, as a man in whose "fidelity, circumspection, and industry he much confided, and whom he called to that office on account of the honesty of his life, and his laudable conversation, and his knowledge of letters" (Wood's Antiq. Oxon., Vol. I, p. 484), it is evident that he was then well known to him, and that the words are something more than those of mere form.

Another proof is afforded by the fact that Islip shortly before his death in April, 1366—a few months after Wycliffe's appointment—was taking steps to annex the Rectory of Mayfield to the Wardenship of Canterbury Hall ; but the appropriation was not completed. Wycliffe was deposed from the Wardenship by Langham, the

successor of Islip in the following year. The Archbishop's registers show that he remained at Mayfield until 1380, when he exchanged the living for that of Horsted Keynes, and that he died in 1383.

Archbishop Langham, on depriving Wycliffe of the wardenship, gave it as his reason that the nomination had been made when Islip was incapacitated by weakness, both of body and mind, for the transaction of business, and it therefore ought not to be considered final. The details of his illness and its cause are thus given. In January, 1362, the Archbishop was riding from Otford to Mayfield, when, at a point between Sevenoaks and Tunbridge, his horse stumbled, and fell with him "in a wet and miry lane, whereby he was made wet all over, in which pitiable state he rode on without changing of clothes." When, at noon, he arrived at Mayfield, being very weary, he fell asleep, still in his damp garments, in a "certain stone chamber." From which especial mention of a "stone chamber" it is inferred that even at this period some portions of the palace were still only of wood. The stone portions, which included sleeping chambers, may have been erected by Islip himself not long previously. He awoke feeling ill, but took his usual place at the dinner-table; a difficulty of speech followed, and he was found to be suffering from a paralytic stroke. His mind continued unaffected, and it was during the time of forced inaction which followed that he drew up the statutes of his college. He remained at Mayfield until July of the year following, when, "gently in a litter," he was conveyed to Charing. Later, again, he was able to visit Canterbury, but did not stay there. He lived chiefly at Charing until his return to Mayfield in August, 1354. We can imagine how the invalid Archbishop and the vicar became closely drawn together during the long months of his residence here, and how it was, when Wodehall's turbulent conduct at Canterbury Hall caused Islip much trouble during the ensuing year, he appointed this tried friend, who was close at hand, in his place.

While incapacitated from business by his accident, Islip summoned his nephew, William Whittlesey, Bishop of Rochester, to his assistance, who celebrated two ordinations at Mayfield for him, also one on the 15th February, 1365, in the room in which the dying prelate was lying. A few days after this, the Archbishop caused himself to be removed to the oratory adjoining this chamber, and for the last time, himself performed this ceremony. Though he lingered on for two months, this was the last effort to perform a sacred office. He died here on the 26th of April, 1366, and on the 2nd of May he was buried in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral,

as he had desired, without public ceremony, and with as little expense as possible.

Simon Langham, his successor, although he only held the primacy for about two years, visited Mayfield at least twice, and was here throughout the summer of 1368. During his visit in the spring of 1367, he held two ordinations, and one in the spring of the year following. There is a deed of his dated Mayfield, July 4th, 1368; also another bearing date August 31st of the same year.

The succeeding Archbishop, William Whittelsey, Islip's nephew, spent little of his time here, although he is presumed to have completed the buildings commenced by his uncle.*

One deed of his bears date Mayfield in 1369, and he held two ordinations in the years 1370 and 1371.

Simon Sudbury must have been here at the earliest period of his primacy; for the first folio of his register contains three appointments made here in August, 1375. He also visited Mayfield again during the three following summers.

William Courtenay, who succeeded him, was at Mayfield in April, 1382, when he received his writ to attend Parliament. He held ordinations in September and December; and spent a great part of the next year at the Palace, also holding two ordinations. He was here in 1385 and 1387; deeds of his are dated here. The spring and summer of 1391 again found him at Mayfield. His last visit appears to have been during the months of September, October and November, 1393, when he celebrated ordinations, which is the last record we have of this ceremony being performed within the walls of Mayfield Palace. A great fire in 1389 had reduced the town and a great part of the church to ashes, but spared the Palace.

Archbishop Arundel was here in 1396, and again in 1400, when he spent the summer at the Palace; as he did in 1403. In 1406, he was again here in July; and in 1409 passed both summer and autumn at the Palace. No instruments of any importance were signed by him here, however; and the same may be said of his successor, Chichele, who, at the several periods he visited Mayfield, remained but a short time, and whose last visit was in August, 1437, six years before his death.

One of the incidental notices of Mayfield, as apart from the Palace, in the fifteenth century, showing that among its tradespeople, it boasted a tailor of some repute, is found among Inquisi-

* Courthope MSS. Coll. of Arms.

tions to prove the full age of wards. Among the witnesses to prove the age of Roger de Fiennes at Hurstmonceaux, and that he was baptized in the church there on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September), 1407, was one William Mershman, who remembered facts and dates because he was living with William Taylour, tailor, of Mayfield: and was sent to Hurstmonceaux with the gowns and apparel of the Lady Elizabeth, mother of the said Roger, against her purification.*

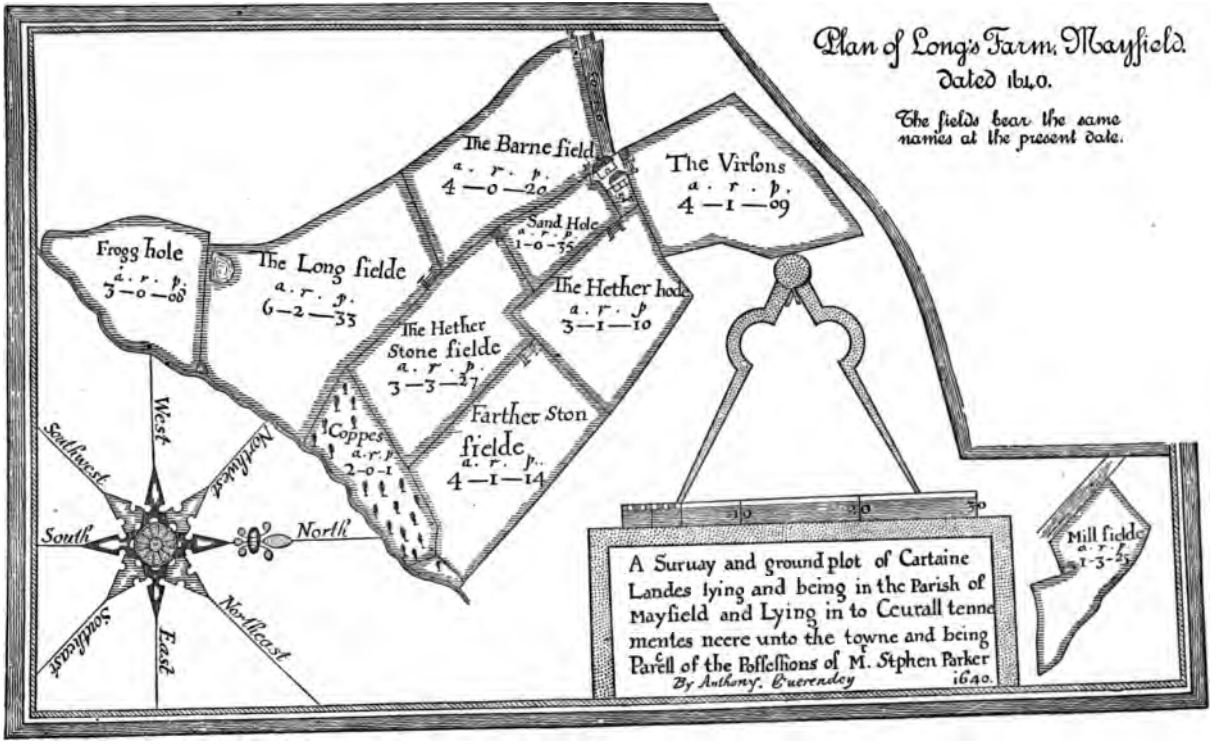
* It was customary for a mother to wear a new gown for her churching.

CHAPTER IV.

THE two succeeding Archbishops, Stafford and Kemp, appear to have made Croydon and Lambeth their chief places of abode.

The Rebellion of Jack Cade took place during the former's primacy. In the Royal Proclamation he is certainly said to have been "born in Ireland," from which most historians have assumed him to have been an Irishman; evidence, however, points to the probability that he was a native either of Mayfield or of Heathfield; but that before the rebellion he had been both in France and Ireland (whether as soldier or outlaw is nowhere given), whence arose the belief that he was Irish. None of the early chroniclers throw much light on the question of his birthplace; Holinshed merely calls him "a certain young man of goodly stature and pregnant wit." Speed, in his "History of Great Britain," says that he had been in the service of Sir Thomas Dacre (son of Lord Dacre of Baily Park, Heathfield), who also joined the rising.

The name of Cade has been known for centuries in the neighbourhood. It first appears in the subsidy rolls of 1328, when the grant of a twentieth was made to the King in Parliament held at Northampton, when the names of Matthew and Robert Cade are given among inhabitants of Mayfield and Wadhurst. In the roll of 1332, when the subsidy of a tenth was collected, Robert, William, John, and Richard Cade, are mentioned. In 1352, there were Johns (two), Robert, William, and Matthew Cade, also John le Cade. In 1523 we find Ellen Cade; also in 1558-9, John Cade, with lands worth 40*s*. We can trace the family later still from deeds at Sunny Bank. The first of these, dated 1591 is a grant from Henry Nevill, Lord of the Manor, of lands in Mayfield to "Richard Cade of Maighfeld, yoman," 81 acres in all, bounded on the east and north by lands already his property (Long's Farm). In the second deed the same Richard Cade conveys to trustees "a barne and six peeces of meadow pasture land and wood whereof the first and second sometime were one, and nowe devyded into two peeces, and are called Longefeld, and the third Frogehole, the fowerth the Stonefeld, the fift the


Plan of Long's Farm, Mayfield.
Dated 1640.
The fields bear the same names at the present date.
The Barne field
a. r. p.
4—0—20
The Virlons
a. r. p.
4—1—09
Sand Hole
a. r. p.
1-0-35
Frogg hole
a. r. p.
3—0—00
The Long fielde
a. r. p.
6—2—33
The Hether hode
a. r. p.
3—1—10
The Hether Stone fielde
a. r. p.
3—3—27
Farther Ston fielde
a. r. p.
4—1—14
Coppes
a. r. p.
2-0-1
West
Southwest
Northwest
South
North
Southeast
East
Northeast
30
30
30
Mill fiddc
a. r. p.
1-3-25
A Suruay and ground plot of Cartaine Landes lying and being in the Parish of Mayfield and Lying in to Ceurall tenne mentes neere unto the towne and being Parell of the Possessions of M. Stphen Parker
By Anthony. Cuerendey
1640.

Hitherhoode, and the sixt the Versyns." (These fields on Long's Farm all bear the same names to this day) . . . to hold for the use of the said Richard, who is to pay an annual rent of £5 to his eldest son Thomas Cade, and after his death to the use of Thomas, who is then to pay an annuity of £4 to Elizabeth wife of Richard Cade. In the third, dated 1621, Richard Cade of Mayfield clothyer grants to Mary Cade, his mother, of Mayfeild widow, an annuity of £5 out of the three pieces of land called Stonefield, Hitherhode, and Versyns. In the fifth, dated 1623, Richard Cade mortgages to Hugh Lucke a messuage, barn and close, etc. (part of Long's). In the sixth, dated 1626, Marie Cade of Mayfeild widow, releases to Hugh Lucke the Barnefeild, the Longfeild and Froghole. In the seventh, dated 1626, Richard Cade of Marden conveys the tenement, barn, garden and lands before mentioned to Hugh Lucke, also all that messuage, barn and lands, late the inheritance of Richard Cade's grandfather.

After this period the family disappear from the locality.

At the time of the rising they appear to have been people of some wealth and position, which may possibly explain how it was that the constables and inhabitants of this neighbourhood obtained a full pardon while others suffered.

Mr. W. Durrant Cooper in an interesting article on Cade* says :—

"The part taken by Sussex men in the rising of 'the commons of Kent' with John Cade at their head, has been very slightly noticed by our historians. The importance of many engaged in that rising, the incidents attending it, the dates of these incidents, and the lasting effect which was produced by that popular, though unsuccessful movement, have not been carefully noted. The chroniclers vary in their descriptions of Cade's followers; Holinshed admits that he drew to him from Kent 'a great company of tall personages,' but he calls the others 'divers idle and vagrant persons out of the shire, Sussex, Surrey and other places.' A reference to the public records enables me to show that so far as Sussex, and especially East Sussex was concerned, the rising partook very much of the character of a military and duly authorised levy and array; a character which it ultimately assumed in Kent also. In many hundreds the musters were levied by the constables; the small landowners (the yeomen), with their labourers, and some tradesmen were ready in their appearance; and we have by name upwards of four hundred Sussex men present. The state of Sussex was such that it might well cause discontent. The bishop (Adam Moleyns) had been very prominent among the king's very unpopular councillors; the French had landed with impunity, doing considerable damage, and many complaints were current of the mode in which the fifteenths were collected. Lord Say and Sele (James

* Suss. Arch. Colls. XVIII.

Fiennes), the Lord Treasurer, whose principal seat was at Knowle in Kent, was unfavourably known here as having just acquired his title by grant from John de Clinton, his Sussex kinsman; and it will be seen that the neighbours of John de Clinton at Hamsey, and the men living close by the treasurer's eldest brother, Sir Robert de Fiennes (who had built Herstmonceux Castle) and Thomas Dacre of Baily Park, Heathfield, in whose service John Cade had been, turned out the strongest in the lists of Cade's Sussex followers.*

"The Abbot of Battle and the Prior of Lewes, with their respective communities, sanctioned the movement, and were involved in the consequences, and their example was followed by the bailiffs of Pevensey and Seaford, and the constables of the borough of Lewes, with the burgesses of the same town. Cade was supposed to be put forward by the Duke of York in order to ascertain the feeling of the nation towards his claims, and that hence was his assumed name of the Duke's cousin, Mortimer . . .

"There joined him out of Sussex the Apsleys, Bartelotts, Bartholomew Bolney of the Manor of West Firle, the Burtons, Chaloners, Colbronds, Gilderidges, Laddes, Lunsfords, Melewards, Oxenbridges, Parkers, Robert Poynings of Twineham and Sutton, who is described as having stirred the great part of such as were adherents, and accompanied Cade, and was his carver and swordbearer; the Selwyns, Wolfes, and many others who subsequently held office under or warmly supported Edward IV." . . .

After the battle of Southwark Bridge, in which Cade and his followers were routed, the Archbishop of Canterbury, then Chancellor of England, sent a general pardon to him and his followers, after which, the old chronicler Fabian says, "he and his company departed every man to his own." Hall, another chronicler, adds, "But John Cade, seeing his company thus without his knowledge suddenly depart, mistrusting of the sequel of the matter, departed secretly in habit disguised, into Sussex, but all his metamorphis and transfiguration little prevailed."

The hamlet in Heathfield, where he was killed, according to unvarying tradition, is still called Cade Street. A pillar there bears the inscription:—

"Near this spot was slain the notorious rebel Jack Cade by Alexander Iden, Sheriff of Kent, A.D. 1450. His body was carried to London and his head fixed upon London Bridge. This is the success of all rebels, and this fortune chanceth ever to traitors."

Tradition also has it that he concealed himself at Newick Farm, between Mayfield and Heathfield, but, becoming tired of the monotony,

* Hastings sent eleven soldiers to help Cade. Rye begged for his friendship, and Lydd sent its constable on horseback to meet him, and wrote him a letter of excuse for not joining him, and presented him with a porpoise. Hist. MSS. Com. IX, 176–7.

he sallied forth to play bowls in an old garden at Heathfield, when he was surprised and shot with an arrow by Iden. The road which led from Heathfield to Newick used to be called "Iden's Way."

After the rebellion was over, the question of pardons was settled by open negotiation in the church of St. Margaret. There is a long list of Sussex men whose names are set out in these pardons; among them are William Bailly of Maghfeld, gent, William Pont of Maghfeld, yeoman, Thomas the chaplain, Thomas Weston, Thomas Harnes, John Hoke, John Att Forde, John Nevyll—all of Maghfeld; and many others from Dallington, Brightling, Uckfield, and other surrounding parishes. The pardons were sealed on the 7th July, and were directed to the Bailiffs of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Essex, and Suffolk.

Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1454 to 1486, during the successive reigns of Henry VI., Edward IV., Edward V., Richard III., and Henry VII., was the son of William Bourchier, Earl of Eu, by Anne, daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of Edward III. Although he held the see nearly 33 years, his register is a very short one; and all that can be gathered from it in connection with Mayfield is that in September, 1479, he came here from Knowle, where he chiefly resided, and returned there in November following. This visit may have been paid in order to superintend alterations at the Palace. A Bourchier knot is mentioned by Burrell, as then existing on one of the doorways, which points to the certainty that some changes must have been made by him in the buildings. This knot, which is the family cognisance of the Bourchiers, consists of two cords looped, with the four ends loose, two in each direction. It is to be seen under the King's head on a half groat of Edward IV. struck at Canterbury during Bourchier's primacy.* He left by will dated 1486 certain vestments to the parish church of Mayfield.†

Archbishop Morton was chiefly at Lambeth, Canterbury and Croydon. His register consists of but a few pages; and although Warham, his successor, is presumed to have built a large portion of the Palace, his register affords no information regarding his rights to it.‡

Warham presented to the city of Rochester some iron railings for its bridge of eleven arches, which railings were worked at a foundry of Mayfield. This bridge, though massive and picturesque, was narrow and inconvenient, and was therefore destroyed in 1856.

* The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishops of Durham had anciently the privilege of coining money.

† Kent Arch. Colls. Vol. 24.

‡ Courthope MSS., Coll. of Arms.

He died at St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, 22nd August, 1532. He is recorded to have spent the vast sum of £35,000 upon the houses belonging to the see. His arms (a goat's head in chief, and three lozenges in base) occur in a spandril of one of the doors on the upper floor of the Palace, and the style of architecture of many parts of it is of the kind which commenced in England about the beginning of the sixteenth century.

In 15 Henry VIII. (1523), the hostile conduct of Louis, King of France, was the occasion of the demand of a subsidy, which was granted to the King yearly for four years upon all lands, upon personality of the value of 40*s*., and upon all servants receiving wages to the amount of 20*s*. per annum. The names of the inhabitants of Mayfield and their respective contributions (exclusive of the quarter of Bibleham) are as follows:—

The Borough of Maighfeld.			*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Willm. Nysell in fee be yere		£111			5	7
Thomas Fawle, his svt. in wages			26	8		4
Thomas Fallen, his svt. in wages			26	8		4
Robert Boutell his svt. in wages			26	8		4
Willm. Relf the elder, in goods		£35			35	0
Andrew Holt, his svt. in wages			26	8		4
William Relf, his son, in goods			66	4	2	8
William atte Hill, in goods		£15			7	6
John Relf, in goods		£10			5	0
John . . . ., in lands, by year			40	0	2	0
William Arnold, in goods		£3				18
Nicholas Mouseherst, in goods		£8			4	0
Thomas Jamys, in goods		£9			4	6
John Dorant, in goods		£6			3	0
Richard Dorant, in goods		£4			2	0
Robert Dorant, in wages			20	0		4
Harry Wadman, in goods			60	0		18
Water Atherwold, in goods		£4			2	0
John Page, in wages by year			20	0		4
Christopher Martin, in goods		£10			5	0
John Mone, the elder, in goods			40	0		12
John Walcot, in wages			20	0		4
Thomas Hoget, in goods		£20			20	0
John Hoget, his svt., in wages			20	0		4
William Melward, in land, by year			26	8		18
Joan Dorant, Wid., in lands, by year			26	8		18
John Marchant, in goods		£18	13	4	9	4
John Wykeresham, in goods		£6			4	0
Richard Smith, in wages, by year			26	8		4
William Gybbe, in goods		£8			4	0

				s.	d.	s.	d.
Julian Gibbe, widow, in goods			£4			2	0
Matthew Kenward, in goods						3	0
John Aynscombe, in goods			£20			20	0
Robert Mire, in goods			£16			8	0
William A. Mier, in lands, by year				26	8		16
Symon Glasier, labourer, wages				20			4
John Hoke, in goods			£13			6	6
Richard Modyll, in goods				40	0		12
John Dray, in goods			£7			3	6
Richard Modyll, the elder, in goods			£4			2	0
John . . . , in goods				40	0		12
Nicholas Modyll, in goods			£4			2	0
John . . . , in goods				60	0		18
Richard Wilmesherst, in goods			£8			4	0
Robert Relf, in goods		£36	13 4			36	8
John Burges, in goods			£9			4	6
John Mone, the younger, in goods				60	0		18
Thomas Mone, in lands, by year				26	8		16
Richard Fysher, in goods				40	0		12
(Defaced)							
Thomas Weston, by year				20	0		12
William Dilke, in goods			£7			3	6
Thomas Longley, in goods			£6			3	0
(Defaced)							
John Baker, in goods				40	0		12
Robert Sawyer, in goods			£7			3	6
Thomas Kempe, in wages				40	0		12
Nicholas Pentecost, in goods				40	0		12
Richard Roger, in wages, by year				26	8		4
(Defaced)							
Harry Symon, in wages, by year				20	0		4
Thomas Jefferey, in goods			£14			7	0
John Freman							
Richard Bashe, in goods				40	0		12
Thomas Smyth, in goods		£11	10			5	9
Richard Holborne, in goods				40	0		12
(Defaced)							
John Edward, in lands, by year				33	4		20
William Dorant, in wages, by year				20	0		4
William Fleecher, in wages, by year				20	0		4
Elen Cade, widow, in goods				106	8	2	8
John Modyll, in goods			£6			3	0
Robert Dyne, in goods			£4			2	0
William Aynescombe, in goods			£4			2	0
(Defaced) Gardiner, in wages				20	0		4
Gilbert Strenger, in wages				20	0		4

		s.	d.	s.	d.
John (defaced), Junior, in wages, by year .		20	0		4
Thomas Proude, in goods		40	0		12
Thomas Marten, in goods		26	8		4
Laurence Marten, in wages		20	0		4
John Adams, in wages, by year . . .		26	8		4
Richard Brymsted, in wages		20	0		4
John Hoke, in wages, by year . . .		20	0		4
William A. Lye, in goods		106	8	2	8
(Defaced) Everesfield, wid., in goods . .	£8			4	0
John Langereg, in goods		60	0	1	6
Richard Whetle, in wages, by year . .		20	0		4
(Defaced) wages		20	0		4
(Defaced) wages		20	0		4
(Defaced) goods		40	0		12
Sum of the Borow of Maighfeld . . .			£17	15	0

The death of Warham in 1533 left the primacy open to the new faith and new politics of Cranmer, the first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury.

The furtherance of the principles of the Reformation, and the extension of it where possible, became by the year 1542 his sole occupation. The King, meanwhile, laid violent hands on whatever Church property he could seize, for not only were the monasteries suppressed, but their lands, houses, plate, and revenues of all kinds were taken possession of—not in great part to be used in cause of religion, but in too many instances to be devoted to unworthy objects, or given or sold for very small sums to favourite courtiers. Cranmer had remonstrated against their improper application, and a sum of money was obtained for the foundation of some new bishoprics, but this was all. The Archbishop vainly hoped that, by giving up some portion of the property of the see, the rest might be spared, to be applied for the promotion of religion and education in the interests of the Reformed Church of England.

He appears to have looked sharply after the interests of his tenants at his Manor of Mayfield, as will appear from the following letter, preserved in the Harl. MSS. (6148 f. 31), written in 1533, the first year of his primacy.

"To myn especiall ffrende my lorde of Burgavenny.

"In my right hartie wise I commende me unto your Lordeship. And where I am enformed by diverse of my tenants of Mafelde that ther be certeyn annciente ffrancheses and libtẽs (liberties) therunto belongyng whiche hetherto hath byn allwais quietly mayntened by my predecessours, notwithstandyng as thei do agayne reporte there ys one Willm̃

Smythe hathe enterprised to infringe the said libtẽs in servyng of a supplycavit to one Jhon Kydder tenante ther. In consideracion therof I hartely desire you, forasmoche as I am myself ignorante of such libtes, that you will execute and provid such condigne punyshment for the offender herein as lawe and conscience will suffer you therunto, so that this poore man maye have some redresse therby. Requirying you furthermore hensforwarde to redresse all such offences within my said libtes upon lyke enformacons, accordyng to your discrete and politique wisdome in that behalf, as you shall thynke most necessarye from tyme to tyme. And in thus doyng you shall not alonlye (only) do unto me synguler pleasour, but also therby be suer of me to shewe at all tymes that pleasour I maye. Thus far you well; frome my Manour of Otteforde the XIX daye of July."

In 36 Henry VIII. (1545), when an account of the Manor of Mayfield was rendered to the King, William Pinkherst was deputy bedell, and he returned the rent of his office at £79 19*s.* 6½*d.*, arrears of rent £4; of Thomas Carrell for woods sold, £2 0*s.* 8*d.* The rectory was farmed by the same Pinkherst at a rental of £15. The park brought £3 6*s.* 8*d.* from William Rysel, farmer. The ironworks on the estate yielded an income to the archbishops, but this is not referred to. The several "compotus" at Lambeth contain nearly similar returns.

In the following year the manor was returned as consisting of 200 acres of demesne, 4,000 of land, 22,000 of pasture, 1,000 of wood, and 2,000 of heath; the rent £30; 9,400 acres in all.

On the 12th November, 1545, Cranmer surrendered it. It was described in the deed as

"All that my Manor of Mayfield, in the Bailywick and Bedelry of South Malling in the county of Sussex, with the rights, members and appurtances in the said Bailywick and Bedelry; and all that my park of Frankham, and the rectories of Mayfield and Wadhurst in the said County of Sussex, with the advowsons, donations and right of presentation to the Vicarage Churches of Mayfield and Wadhurst aforesaid, and also all and singular the messuages, granges, mills, lofts, cottages, parks, warrens, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, common of pasture wastes, furze, heathgrounds, marshes, waters, fishings, fishing-places, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions, services, courts-leets, view of frank-pledge, chattels, waifs, estrays, wards, marriages, escheats, reliefs, heriots, fines, amerciaments, advowsons, churches, tenths, pensions, portions, all other rights, franchises, liberties, privileges, profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever, with the appurtenances in Mayfield, Wadhurst, etc."

The buildings in this and in previous deeds were never called

the Palace, but "the chief manor house." Hop gardens are not mentioned, although hops were introduced into England some twenty years previously, and appear to have been soon afterwards cultivated in the parish.* That they were grown to some extent about this time is proved by a quaint poem, written by Thomas Tusser, and published in 1557, called "A Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," which passed through several editions. His practical directions show us what was thought necessary for the successful growing of hops between three and four hundred years ago.

"Ground gravelly, sandy, and mixed with clay,
Is naughty for hops, any manner of way.
Or if it be mingled with rubbish and stone,
For dryness and barrenness let it alone.
Choose soil for the hops of the rottenest mould,
Well dunged and wrought; as a garden plot should;
Not far from the water, but not overflown,
This lesson well noted is meet to be known.
The sun in the south, or else southerly and west,
Is joy to the hops, as a welcomed guest,
But facing the north, or else northerly east,
To the hops is as ill as a fay in a feast.
Meet plot for a hop yard, once found is as told,
Make thereof account, as a jewel of gold;
Now dig it, and leave it, the sun for to burn,
And afterwards fence it, to serve for that turn.
The hops for his profit I thus do exalt,
It strengtheneth beer, and it favoureth malt;
And being well brewed, long kept it will last,
And drawing abide—if we draw not too fast."

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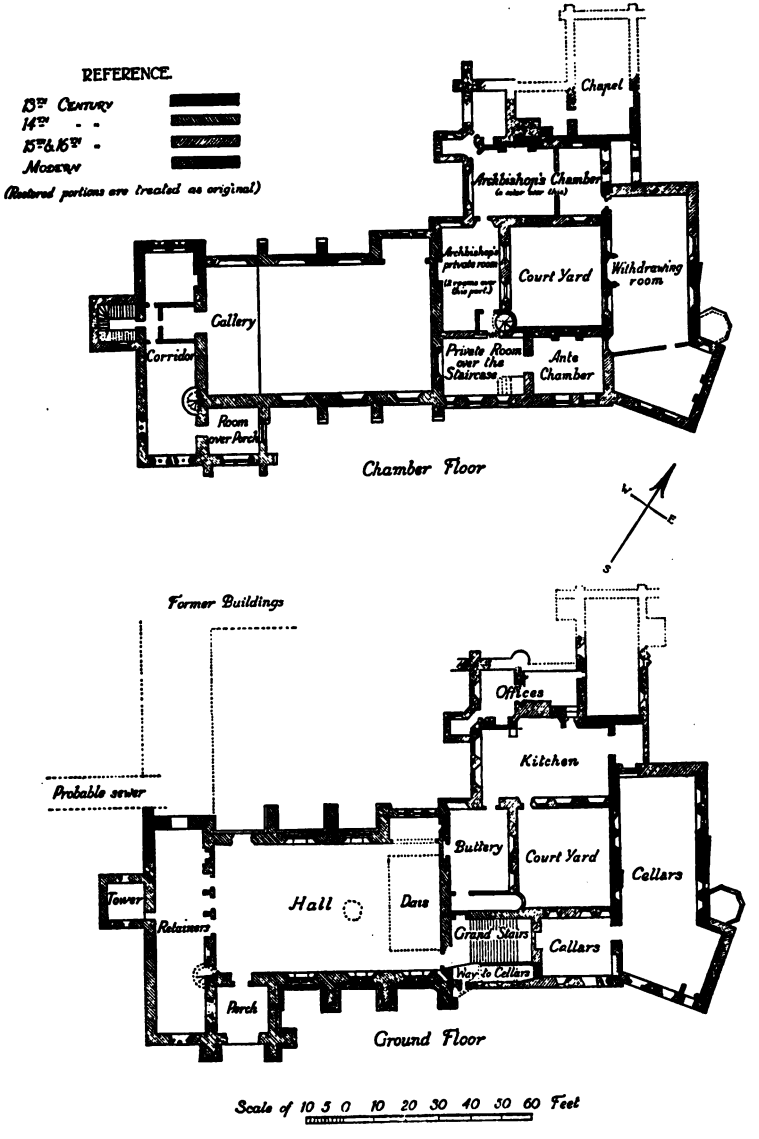
* From an entry in the registers for the year 1580, see page 93.

MAYFIELD PLACE



CHAPTER V.

BEFORE continuing the history of the parish after the changes brought about by the Reformation, it may be well to note what different authorities have to say on both Palace and church, taking, in the first place, the Palace about which so much has already been said. The chief sources from which the following descriptions of the original buildings are taken are the Sussex Archæological Collections; a paper in Vol. XXIII. of the Archæological Association, by Mr. E. Roberts, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.; Mr. Courthope's MSS., Coll. of Arms, Nos. 19 to 26; and Rouse's "Beauties and Antiquities of Sussex."

The gateway with its lofty pointed arches must have formed the grand entrance from very early times. Many mouldings and pieces of wall remain of apparently the fifteenth century, with later alterations, probably of Warham's time (1502–1533). Mr. Michael Baker, about the year 1730, converted it into a dwelling-house by building up the gateway, and as such it remained until a few years ago, when the arches were again opened, and it was restored to its former state, with a schoolroom and priest's house added on either side.

The whole of the buildings may in general terms be said to be mainly of two dates, namely, the middle of the fourteenth, and quite the end of the fifteenth centuries, though there are both earlier and later portions; and to consist of a great hall lying nearly east and west, with the retainers' department on the west, and the archbishop's on the east, on the four sides of a quadrangle, with his culinary and other offices and cellars beneath. No traces remain of the early building of St. Dunstan, which is not surprising, as, like the church, it was probably of wood and was replaced by stone in the course of time. It seems as if part of the building only was of stone in Islip's time, for the cold caught by that prelate in the stone chamber is especially mentioned, hence we may infer a portion was of wood, which might have been the remains of St. Dunstan's palace.

The great hall, probably erected by Islip about the year 1350,

is a noble building, both as to proportions and details, and belongs to a period when pointed architecture attained its perfection in the Decorated or Middle Plantagenet style. A most striking feature of the exterior of the hall is the porch, which is of the latter part of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century, probably built by Warham. The ribs of the roof are locked together by a massive central keystone, which is worked into a foliaged boss. A chamber existed over this roof, communicating with others at the lower end of the hall.

The hall is irregular in its dimensions, measuring 69 feet 4 inches on the southern, and only 68 feet 6 inches on the northern side; while its west end is 39 feet in breadth, and the east end 39 feet 6 inches. The height to the level part of the ceiling is about 42 feet, and to the roof-tree about 60 feet. The sides are divided into four bays. The lower one on each side has a doorway, the others contain each a window. The uppermost bay on the north side was at some subsequent period projected, retaining the original window; the sides of this projection were carried above the parapet, and enclosed an upper chamber. Above each window on the exterior, the wall is increased in thickness, and turned in an arch between the buttresses, which thus sustain a longitudinal as well as an outward pressure. The great size of these buttresses (3 feet 10 inches by 7 feet 6 inches) is necessary, in order to resist the thrust of the great arches. They appear to have been of two stages, with a plinth, finished above the parapet with pinnacles. The arches above the windows greatly strengthen the fabric, at the same time giving a light appearance to the wall. It is a peculiar arrangement, but may be seen also in the wall of Penshurst Hall. Penshurst Hall and Mayfield Palace have many other points of similarity, noticeably the windows. Leeds Castle near Maidstone, and Bayham Abbey have good examples of windows of the same character and period, which is sometimes known as "Kentish tracery." Those of Mayfield are tall and finely proportioned. They are of two lights trefoiled, divided by a transom cinquefoiled. The tracery consists of a large ogee—pointed trefoil, each foil again trifoliated by smaller cusps; the three inner points of the trefoil have rounded stone finials. The exterior mouldings are plain chamfers; those of the interior consist of a boldly carved roll, with a square fillet on the face. The internal splays are finished with a moulded arch, supported on engaged shafts, which have bases and foliaged capitals. The arch is surmounted by a label or hood moulding. Below the sills in the interior are flat table stones, intended, it would seem, for seats.

These windows furnished an interesting example of the ancient custom of considering glass as movable property. Except in the tracery there were no grooves for the glass. The casements were movable, turning upon hinges, some of which remained at the time of the restoration of the ruins. Probably the casements were taken out when the archbishops were not in residence, and the windows closed with shutters. The sills are peculiarly grooved, not to drop the shutters into, as has been said, but to catch the drifting rain.* The same plan for shutters, also the window seats projecting from each jamb, may be seen at Stokesay Castle.

The three lofty arches for the support of the roof remained as entire and solid as when the building was in its perfect state, and formed a most striking feature of the ruined Palace. It is said they were only left because the difficulties attending their proposed demolition proved insurmountable, when Mr. Michael Baker gave up residing at the "Old Place," as it was then called, removed to the Lower House, and (under a clause of his father's will) unroofed and dismantled the banqueting-hall, between the years 1730 and 1740. They once again fulfil their original purpose of supporting a roof, for the old hall is now the chapel of the convent.

They embrace a span of nearly 40 feet. A slightly recessed groove is worked vertically on each spandril, and they are carried on corbels placed midway down the wall; these have a moulded abacus, and are enriched with varied foliage of excellent sculpture, which, together with that on the jamb-shaft capitals of the doorways, exhibit the vine, ivy, and oakleaf in a manner worthy of the best period of art. The foliage is supported by figures of men and of animals. Immediately below these runs a string course of moulding round the hall, except where interrupted by the windows.

The roof must have been of noble design when perfect, and was probably unique. Mr. Street says it evidently had wall pieces against the walls above the arches, from which arched braces were probably framed to support the purlines, and that above the centre of the arch must have stood a king-post with framed rafters, one of the most noble designs it was possible to conceive, and the class of roof to which it belongs illustrates a very interesting combination of the king-post roof and the arched principal roof.

Mr. Roberts considers that Mr. Street ignored the peculiar character of the masonry at Mayfield, the square piece of walling over the arches being unknown elsewhere; and that he took it too much for

* These windows are now filled with stained glass.

granted that it was on exactly the same principle as the Hall of the Mote, Igtham, which was probably built by the same hands.*

Mr. Roberts also inclines to the belief that

"there could not have been a separate room over the middle part of the hall, and that there was a kind of dormer or clerestory, the centre to act as a fumorel. That there was some kind of floor or joisting at one end is certain, for photographs and drawings, going back for upwards of a century, show a series of holes for timber at the west end, and photographs of the other arched walls show what, perhaps, no eye could detect from below and what no drawing shows—a mark of a former ceiling with beams from *side to side*, showing a covering or floor over at least the greater part, and perhaps galleries round the other compartments, to which access might have been had from a continuous platform outside."

At the upper end of the hall was a dais (of two steps, to judge from the height at which the throne was placed). The stone diaper-work which formed the back of the throne remained in its original place on the wall until the restorations, when it was removed and placed in the ante-chapel. It owed its preservation, probably, to the fact, mentioned in a letter of Mr. John Baker's dated August, 1799, that it was concealed by plaster, which accidentally fell and disclosed it. When Burrell was here in 1783, he discovered the remains of a Gothic canopy overhanging it, but no one now living remembers anything of the kind. High in the wall over the chair of state was a shallow arched niche of some size, which may have contained a statue, or have been an entry into the chambers beyond: below this again, and to the right was a closed up window of three lights, originally belonging to the archbishop's chamber, whence he could see what was passing in the hall, without being present, a common arrangement in ancient mansions. In the bay at the end of the hall was a blocked archway, which led to apartments beyond; and at the opposite angle of the same end were two adjacent doorways, one on the east, the other on the south side. The arches of both are deeply moulded, and the jamb shafts have foliaged capitals. That on the south side opens into a recess which has a small square hatch in the outer wall, from which it is supposed the fragments of the archbishop's table were served out to the expectant poor, who were in waiting to receive them at stated times.

At the lower or western end are three stone arches, the central one larger than the others, communicating with buttery, kitchen and pantry, in accordance with the usual arrangements of the fourteenth

* Drawings show this stone-work at the British Museum. Add. MSS. No. 5671, folios 31, 32, and King's Library, XLII. 53.

century hall. A screen over the three arches at the further end from the dais was almost universal, sometimes of stone, more usually of wood, and often with a minstrels' gallery over. Penshurst is a good example; but what kind of screen may have existed at Mayfield is matter of pure conjecture. Accounts of tiles which may have formed the flooring of the hall are extremely vague. They are said to have been coloured, and similar in design to the diaper-work of the throne; some were at one time lying about in the ruined hall and were lost or carried off by visitors.

The tower on the west of the buildings is 11 feet 6 inches in diameter inside. Only its walls and windows and a portion of the staircase were left standing before the restorations, when its height was increased. The winding staircase led to the galleries, solar, and apartments. Mr. Roberts is inclined to think that the apartments between the hall and tower may not have been pantries and buttery, as there is no hatch apparent, but may have been apportioned to the retainers; and he places the buttery on the west and the kitchen (which may have been an additional luxury of the fifteenth century) on the north of the courtyard. It is quite possible that fresh arrangements of the domestic offices may have been made at the time of the great additions in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. (The buttery and kitchen are marked on the plan in the positions he assigns them.)

Mr. Courthope inclines to the opinion that the archbishop's private chapel, mentioned in deeds, may have been situated beyond the three archways, between the hall and tower; but this is not generally considered to have been likely. Mr. Roberts believes the room to the north-east of the hall, on the chamber floor (see plan), to have been the chapel, for three reasons: that it was accessible by three different ways; that the window is slightly more ornate, and placed much too high from the floor for any other purpose than an altar beneath; and that it joins the archbishop's apartments. Portions of these apartments are very ancient, containing windows and a doorway of the thirteenth century; these were hidden and undiscovered until Mr. Roberts's examination.

The following names of chambers are mentioned in ancient records:—Chamber of the Register, Chamber of the Archbishop's Chancellor, Archbishop's Private Oratory, the Great Hall in which the Council met.

The ancient staircase consisted of seventeen steps, formed of long blocks of stone, and was about 12 feet wide. The handrail was of massive iron, attached by twisted pieces of iron round the rail fastened into wooden blocks projecting from the wall. This iron-

work was probably fashioned at the furnaces on the estate, belonging to the archbishops. It unfortunately disappeared after the restoration, when the staircase was removed.

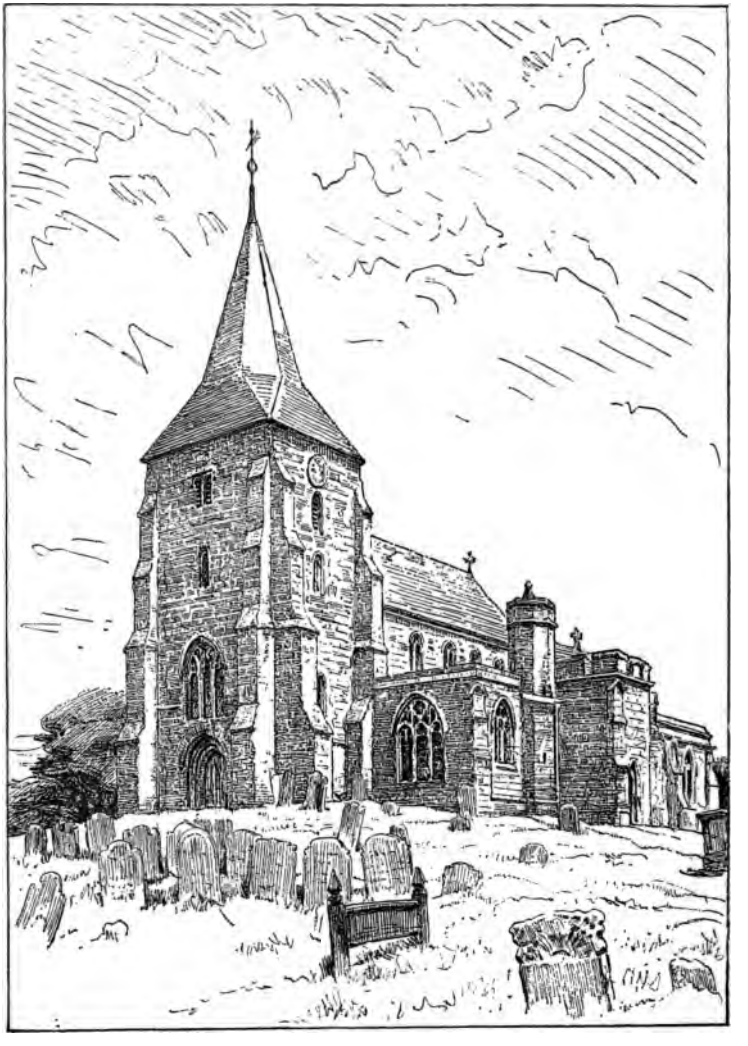
This staircase must not be confounded with a later one, said to have been built by Sir Thomas Gresham especially for the use of Queen Elizabeth when she paid him a visit at Mayfield. This was contained in a tower on the north side, which fell down in the year 1799, rendering the buildings much less picturesque on that side than heretofore. It is shown in a view taken by Grosse in the year 1778.*

The grand staircase led direct into a large apartment, occupying one side of the quadrangle, which was, in later times, called the great dining-room. It has a very fine stone fireplace in the ancient form of a projecting hood, supported at each end by a triple bracket. This room has lost its original windows, those it now boasts being of the Tudor period. In an adjoining chamber, called the archbishop's chamber on the plan (that long known as Queen Elizabeth's room), was a chimney-piece dated 1571. It is carved with grasshoppers in medallions, the badge of the Greshams. This mantelpiece has been removed to a sitting-room on the ground floor.

In one of the lower rooms was a window filled with elegant open lead-work with piercings in the shape of *fleur-de-lis*, portions of which are preserved, with other relics of the past, in the ante-chapel of the convent, by which name the buildings are now best known. As has been mentioned, the diaper-work of the archbishop's throne here finds a resting-place, together with the cannon of the seventeenth century which was, some seventy years or more ago, dug up on the site of the old ironworks and placed on the porch of the palace; also various objects of interest, chief among them being the so-called tongs, anvil and sword of St. Dunstan. The sword is by some believed to be the one with which Queen Elizabeth knighted Sir Thomas Gresham. These "relics of St. Dunstan" were formerly kept in the church, as also was a helmet which ultimately formed part of the collection of armour belonging to the Earl of Londesborough. When the collection was sold at Christie's in 1888, lot 268 was catalogued as "Heaulme, from Mayfield Church, Sussex. Was for long shewn there as that of St. Dunstan—*temp.* Henry III." †

* Grosse's "Antiquities." Vol. V.

† Suss. Arch. Colls. Vol. 36, p. 247.



ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH.

CHAPTER VI.

EADMER'S account of the dedication by St. Dunstan of the earliest church built at Mayfield has already been given (page 21). As far as can be ascertained no vestige of that early fabric has been discovered, nor is the dedication known. That the dedication of Mayfield parish church to St. Dunstan dates from soon after his canonization is probable, as the Normans did not dedicate new churches built by them to Saxon saints.

It was not this building, however, that was destroyed by the fire that overwhelmed the town in 1389, as the portions that escaped the conflagration and form a part of the present edifice show it to have been a thirteenth century stone one. No record concerning it seems to be extant. There is an old legend that when St. Dunstan's wooden church was replaced by a stone one, Satan used every night to set wrong what had been done during the day. For ages, it is said, the prints of his feet were shown in a neighbouring quarry where he was accustomed to resist the workmen, who were procuring stone for the new edifice.* The site of this wonderful quarry does not now appear to be locally known, unless it is the one in "Quarry Wood" at Old Mill Farm, whence tradition says the stone for the present church was brought. This much, at all events, is certain: that the sandstone of the neighbourhood varies much in quality, and that a sample from Quarry Wood was identical with the stone of which the church is built.

The Early English church which suffered in the fire was probably built in the first half of the thirteenth century of the same dimensions as the present one. The nave, choir, and aisles, also the chantry dedicated to St. Alban, where King Edward I. made his offerings, were destroyed. The tower and other portions of the west end alone escaped with the lower courses of the walls of the nave. The tower has heavy buttresses, scroll string mouldings of about 1220 or 1230, and equilateral lancets. There are alterations of early fourteenth-

* Suss. Arch. Colls. Vol. XIII., p. 227.

century work, namely the west doorway, and a fine window, of which the tracery has been recently restored. The whole of the upper portions of the tower are later than the lower; and the shingled spire is a later addition still.

The west end of the north aisle (now the vestry) retains its Early English lancet window, and is a remain of an earlier aisle in the form of a lean-to, probably altered into a gable, as it now is, after the fire. The pavement is lower than that of the rest of the church, and was in all likelihood the original level. The arch at the west end which opened into the tower has been blocked by masonry. Traces of the fire may be seen on reddened stones on the outside at the west end; and in digging a drain a few years ago near the west door, great quantities of ashes and charred fragments were found. This fire is mentioned by Thomas of Walsingham as the fulfilment of a prophecy of a young man at Ely, to whom St. Ethelred, virgin and martyr, had appeared, and among other predictions had foretold so great heat as to melt the lead of churches. There are various records of a spiritual court being held in this church, notably one in 1356, to hear cause why Thomas de Lylde, Bishop of Ely, then and there present, should not be admitted to canonical purgation, he having been defamed by being concerned in a murder, by harbouring the felon after the fact committed; and no one appearing after repeated proclamation, the Bishop was absolved by the Archbishop; but, unable to regain the King's favour, he left England, and preferred his cause to the Pope.

It has been mentioned that there are no records of deeds executed at Mayfield by the seven archbishops who succeeded William Courtenay, who died in 1396; yet it was during this period, when history is silent concerning the Palace, that the church was re-built. The whole structure, with the exception of the small earlier portions, bears the impress of the period *circa* 1410–20; and it is probable that several years would elapse after so severe a conflagration, ere any serious steps could be taken with regard to the church—attention would necessarily have to be first bestowed on the re-housing of the people. The private chapel of the archbishop at the Palace was uninjured, and with the adjoining apartment may well have served for public worship in the meantime. It was possibly to replace a picture lost or injured in the fire, that William Ponte by his will of 1471 bequeathed "towards a new picture of St. Mary of Maghfeild XX*s*., if the parishioners are willing to re-paint the same." He also left XII*d*. "to any of those who will pilgrimage for me to St. Thomas of Canterbury."

The chancel was unquestionably the first part to be restored, its character being that of nearly half a century before the western end. The dimensions are of unusual grandeur in comparison with the rest of the building. The width is the same as that of the nave—26 feet 6 inches, the length being 49 feet.

The windows in recessed arches are interesting, and the east window is well proportioned with five lights. Some old stained glass is said to have been removed and stowed in a cellar at the Lower House; if so, all traces of it have been long lost. The Munich glass now in it was given by the Treherne family in 1869. Until the restoration in 1868 the inner roof of the chancel had been lowered so as to hide the top of the east window from view.

In the north wall of the chancel are traces of a doorway mid-way between the two windows, hidden by a monument from the inside, while a heavy buttress has been erected against it on the outside. The wall, indeed, in its whole length has been added to; the lower part is of the thirteenth century, while the upper part is of the fourteenth century. This door was probably for direct communication with the Palace, and there was an archway in the churchyard wall which seemed to lead to it. A portion of the wall fell at this point some years ago, and, when it was repaired, the arch was removed to the garden adjoining, where it now stands. Two depressed arches throw open the smaller or vicar's chancel to the larger. This smaller chancel is a continuation of the north aisle, and is called the "Lady Chancel" in a will of 1570. It has a hagioscope or "squint" which enabled the worshippers there to see the elevation of the pyx. The usual piscina is there also (there are others, or traces of them, in the church), and a niche which at one time bore traces of former polychromy. The roof is the original one of timbers running at right angles with the tie-beams, forming compartments handsomely moulded, which compares most favourably with the modern roofs. This part has been thought to be the chantry to St. Alban, restored, but there is no mention of it in the certificates of chantries drawn up by Henry VIII.'s Commission in the Public Record Office. It is possible that when the church was re-built the chantry was not restored, either because its revenues were devoted to some other object, or because they were not sufficient for the purpose for which it had been founded.

The floor of the large chancel was considerably raised in 1855 and re-paved, the expense being chiefly borne by the Lay Rector, Lord Carrington; before that time it was paved with bricks, which were always more or less damp. From west to east the floor rises

perceptibly, a not uncommon feature of ancient buildings, probably in order to heighten the perspective and increase the apparent length.

The division between nave and chancel was formerly marked by a fine rood screen, above which was the cross-beam that formed a main support to the rood loft. Only the lower portion of this screen remains. It has only re-occupied its original position since 1868, before which time it seems to have been placed in various positions, such as under the east window, or forming a division between high pews.

The nave is 65 feet long by 26 feet 6 inches broad, and with aisles similar to those of Wadhurst (also a "peculiar" of the Archbishops of Canterbury), namely, narrow on the north side, and wide on the south, being respectively 9 feet 5 inches wide, and 16 feet 5 inches—those at Wadhurst being 9 feet 4 inches, and 15 feet 11 inches—the entire width of both being exactly 56 feet 8 inches, which cannot be an accidental coincidence. The nave is divided from the aisles by five arches on each side, springing from octagonal piers, and is lighted from the clerestory by five Gothic windows on either side, of which four are of two lights, and one nearest the chancel of three lights. The clerestory was added during Warham's primacy in the reign of Henry VII. Before this, the nave of Mayfield Church probably more resembled that of Rotherfield, with one span of roof over nave and aisles. The arcades were rebuilt also; and probably the tower was raised an additional storey to correspond with it, as this part seems to be of later date. The porch at the south entrance is quadrangular, and battlemented, with angular buttresses, and having on its western side an octangular staircase turret; the roof of stone rising to a point, on which formerly may have been a more ornamental crocket or finial of some sort. The interior roof of the porch is groined, with a boss in the centre, consisting of two animals curled round each other, the ribs springing from corbels ornamented with figures. There were formerly seats in the porch, and in 1777 the churchwardens paid £5 16*s.* 2*d.* for new ones. Above the arch on the outside are traces of a sun-dial.

Prior to the Reformation, the porch was used for a variety of religious rites, and portions of the marriage and baptismal services and also of that for the churching of women were performed there. Frequent notices of the right of refuge in the porch occur in old documents; and various entries in the Mayfield parish registers prove that its porch also sheltered the homeless and outcast.

There is a parvise, or room over, which may be of later date

than the porch itself, to which access is gained by the winding stone staircase inside the church. It has been suggested that it served as an oratory for a chantry priest; it may have been so, but it was more likely used as the sacristan's chamber, from whence he could watch over the church treasures. One of its windows has been blocked up. It served a very different purpose fifty years ago, being then used as the cloak-room of the girls' school held in the south-west portion of the church (then the vestry) until after the girls' school was built in 1851. Many a village matron has a vivid remembrance of the half-frightened scamper up and down the winding stairs, when obliged to fetch the out-door garments before returning home, in the gathering dusk of a winter afternoon. The oak benches in the north aisle are ancient, and may date from pre-Reformation days. They, like the screen, have changed their place more than once, and were at one time to be found in the west gallery, known as the "new gallery," built in 1764; another, on the north side, being the "old gallery." These were taken down in 1868, and the benches were then placed in the north aisle.*

The font is of stone, octagonal in shape, each central panel bearing a different device. That facing the aisle bears the date 1666. That to the right of it bears the initials R. P. (Robert Peck, the then vicar), that to the left the double initials T. D., A. W. The base of it is evidently of earlier date, and may have belonged to the old font, also octagonal, which lay for many years in the garden of "Stone Court," and has recently been removed to the convent. Now "Stone Court" was the old parish workhouse, and under the control of the churchwardens and overseers; therefore, in all likelihood, when the new font was placed on the old pedestal, the discarded one was carried across to the workhouse, there to serve as a trough of some sort. The base of this font corresponds in measurement with the base of the one in the church. If it has been carved, all trace of ornamentation has disappeared.†

The font cover is merely of painted deal, and needs no notice. The pulpit is of oak, carved in strap-work of the seventeenth century.

The brass candelabra, dated respectively 1737 and 1773, with monograms and coats of arms of the Bakers in medallions, are

* The archbishop's faculty for the erection of the singing gallery and other details of church expenses are given among the parish accounts. See page 104.

† In the same way at Rotherfield an old font was carried to the churchwarden's field to serve as a trough.

believed to have been placed in the church to give light for the customary midnight funerals of that family.

Six of the stained glass windows are memorials to the Kirby family; the three recent ones being in the north aisle, that at the east end, with stone-work restored, being a memorial to the late vicar, the Rev. H. T. M. Kirby, dedicated on the 6th of May, 1899. The two others have been given since; one being a memorial to the late Mrs. Kirby, the other to Miss Julia and Miss Caroline Kirby. Three of the windows are to the Day family; one to the Hughes family; one to the Sykes family; one to the Neal family; and one was given by the Rev. H. W. Hitchcock, late curate.

The tables of Commandments at each side of the east window were originally placed as a reredos, with a painting roughly executed of Moses and Aaron by Walter Gale, the first schoolmaster of the parish.

The carved oak reredos is a memorial to Miss Emily Caroline Kirby, the eldest daughter of the late vicar. It was carved by the members of the Mayfield School of Wood-Carving (in which she had taken great interest), the cost of it being defrayed by subscriptions from parishioners and friends. At the base of the three centre panels is the text, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and on each side are the words:—

"To the Glory of God, and in memory of Emily Caroline Kirby, who died July 6th, 1894. Erected in affectionate esteem by friends, rich and poor."

The brass lectern was given by Lady Sykes in 1866; the older one of oak stands in the lesser chancel, together with the parish chests. These chests were broken open and ransacked by thieves, who forced an entrance into the church a few years ago; but they found nothing in them but books and papers, as the church plate is kept elsewhere.

The organ, a second-hand one, was bought by subscription in 1864, and was enlarged at a cost of over £200 in 1900.

Before 1882, the church was unheated; in that year two large coke stoves were placed, which have lately been replaced by a system of hot-water pipes. Gas was laid on in 1887.

There are no ancient monuments remaining; possibly their absence may be partly accounted for by an entry in one of the old churchwardens' books—"To the removal of stones and bones from the Church." Weaver's book of "Ancient Funeral Monuments," published 1767, which treats of monuments in four dioceses, including Canterbury, contains no mention of Mayfield. Some of the earliest and most curious in the church are the iron slabs, the work

of local furnaces, let into the pavement. The finest of these is that nearest to the chancel of three in the centre aisle, not far from the font, inscribed :—

Thomas Sands
Citizen and Wine
Cooper of London
Who died Decbr. y^e^ 11th
Año Domini 1708
In y^e^ 33rd year of his
Age.

Part of the space is filled by foliaged ornamentation. The family coat of arms may also be seen at the top of the slab, and it is certainly a curious fact that in the church chests are papers signed by this Thomas Sands with a X, he being unable to write.*

The earlier slab next it is of singularly rough execution, some letters and figures are reversed, and there are lines showing how roughly the boards on which the inscription was carved were put together before they were pressed into the mould of sand. The inscription is :—

Hear lyeth the Body of Thomas Sands
Who was Buryed July the 20 1668
Aged 72 years.

The next one bears the inscription :—

Here lyeth interred the body of John Edwards
Gen. who departed this life the 23 of June, Anno
Dom 1678. and of his age
71.

The arms are much obliterated.

There are also some iron slabs in the chancel, one with the Latin inscription :—

Johannes . Filius
quartus . Johann
is . et Dorotheæ
Baker . hic . Jacet .
In . tertio . mense .
ætatis . obiit . an
noque . Domini 1669
(The Baker coat of arms.)
Vita Brevis.

* The Calendar of State Papers of Charles I. informs us that a vault under St. Paul's Chapter House was let to Mr. Sands of the "Green Dragon," who used it for a wine-cellar.

His brother lies next him ; the inscription runs :—

Johannes . filius
quintus . Johann
is . et Dorotheæ
Baker . Hic jacet .
In . quintodecimo . mense .
ætatis . obivit . An
noque . domini 1671
(The Baker coat of Arms.)
Vita Brevis.

It will be the simplest plan to take the monuments on the walls of the church in their order, commencing with those at the west end, on either side of the door leading to the tower. That on the left is to the Rev. Peter Baker, inscribed :—

Here lie the remains
Of the Rev. Mr. Peter Baker, A.M.
Vicar of this Parish
And Son of John Baker Esqre of The Place
Who died
On the 20th day of January, A.D. 1729. Aged 58 years.
He married
Marthanna Eldest d^tr^ of Mr. Robert Baker of Middle House
By whom he had issue one son born Decbr. the 13th, 1716
namely Michael Baker Esqre of the Lower House
Who caused these two monuments to be Erected
And who married Martha, Daughter and Sole Heiress
of Walter Roberts Esqre of Stone House in Warbleton.
The said Mr. Peter Baker
Was Pastor here in his native place 33 years
He liv'd happily possess'd
of the Hearts and Affections of his People
And he dy'd universally lamented.

That to the right of the door is inscribed :—

Here lyeth interred
The Body of John Baker Esqre of The Place
who died
On the 18th day of March A.D. 1723 aged 80 years
He married
Ruth D^tr^ and co-heiress of Peter Farnden Esqre of Selscomb
By whom
he had issue Six Sons and Six Daughters
Namely Sons
John, Michael, Peter, Thomas, George and Nizel

And Daughters
Elizabeth, Dorothy, Lucy, Martha, Charity & Ruth.
He was born liv'd and dy'd
And enjoy'd an ancient Inheritance
In this Parish of Mayfield
Which he handed down to Posterity
Without the least Diminution
For the true character of him was
That he was Hospitable without Extravagance
Charitable without Ostentation
And he was Good
And did Good
And had the very essence of every Social Virtue
These Qualifications, Reader
Are recorded for your Imitation,
Therefore "Go and do thou likewise."

There is a marble tomb inside the vestry close by inscribed :—

Here lyeth interred the Body
of Anne Daughter of S^r^
George Rivers Baronet
and Dorothea his Wife
of Chafford in the Parish of
Penshurst in Kent who
departed this life the 28th
of May Anno Dom. 1742
Aged 47 years.

There is a small marble tablet at the east end of the north aisle to Major Charles Grant; then in the chancel are more monuments to the Baker family. The inscription on the one nearest the pulpit is :—

This monument is erected to the memory of
Thomas Baker Esqre late of Lower House citizen of London
and member of the Worshipfull Company of Grocers. He was the
second son of George and Philadelphia Baker late of Mayfield Place
He served the important office of High Sheriff for this County
in the year 1775.
And died leaving no issue June 25th 1782 aged 53 years.
Also of Marthanna his first wife who was daughter and sole heiress of
George and Sarah Baker, late of the Parish of Warbleton
She died November 27th 1780 aged 59 years.
Also of
Ann his second wife, who was Daughter of John and Hannah Baker
of the Middle House. She died December 11th 1804 aged 81 years.

All lie buried in a Vault in this Church
Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.
And this is the record that God hath given us eternal Life.
And this Life is in His Son
He that hath the Son hath Life
And he that hath not the Son Hath not life.
Reader, examine yourself
Is Christ formed in your heart the hope of Glory?
If truly so
Death will be your eternal gain.

The next monument has on it :—

Near
This place lieth interred
the body of Robert Baker
Of Middle House in this parish
Gent. and of Marthanna his wife
The only daughter and heiress of
Samuel Cole of Braybrook Castle
In the County of Northampton
Gent. By whom he had issue
Six Sons and Five Daughters, viz.
Samuel who died aged 29. John
Robert, Richard, George, Thomas,
Marthanna, Elizabeth, Dorothea,
Elizabeth, and Mary, three of whom,
viz. Marthanna, Dorothea, and
Mary, were living at the time
of his decease. He died the 4th
of July 1714 Aged 79, before which
viz. the 22nd of January 1693 y^{e} said
Marthanna his wife died aged
42. In respect to his memory
This monument is erected.

One, similar in design to that next the pulpit, has on it :—

This marble is erected to record the memory
Of Michael Baker Esqre.
The only issue of the Rev^{d} Peter Baker many years
Vicar of this Parish.
He died 16th July 1750 aged 34 years
And is buried in the Chancel of this Church.
Also to the memory of Martha his wife sole heiress
Of Walter Roberts Esqre of Stone House Warbleton
Who in the year of Our Lord 1770 married the
Rev. Henry Harcourt
Rector of Warbleton and Crowhurst in this County

She died 19 Septr. aged 79 years
And lies buried in the Parish Church of Warbleton aforesaid
They left no issue
Reader remember you also must shortly die
Prepare therefore to meet your Judge.
(XIV John 6th)
Jesus Christ is the Way the Truth and the Life
No man cometh unto the Father but by him
Seek then an Inheritance in His Glorious Kingdom
And Death will be your Eternal Gain

The black marble one next this is inscribed :—

Nere this place under three iron plates
marked T H. W H. I H.
ly the bodies of
Thomas Houghton late of this Parish
And Principall of Clifford's Inn
London
Who deceased on the 30 day July 1669
Aged 75 yeares
And of
Walsingham his wife, who departed this life
The 30 Day of January following
Aged 65
And of
John their youngest son who dyed on the
8 day of December 1666
Aged 36.

Inside the altar rails on the left side is a small monument to Thomas Baker, Canon of Chichester, Rector of Stanmer-cum-Falmer, who died in 1831, and of Anne his wife, who died 1859. On the right side is another small monument to Samuel Baker of the Middle House who died in 1796, also to Anne, his wife, who died in 1809.

The one over the squint is inscribed :—

John Baker
Late of Stoneland in this County Esqre.
Who was of Piety Christian Vertue and Charity
an examplar. Slept in Jesus Octb 11th 1688 in ye
fifty ninth year of his age.
He married Dorotheæ ye daughter of John Baker of
Mayfield Place Esquire Who mournfully placed this
Monument to his memory. By whom he had issue
Eight Sonnes and Five Daughters. John their first born

Departed this life November ye 11th 1667 aged four yeares
and three-quarters. Charles their second Son did remember
His Creator in the dayes of his youth in which he was
ripe for Heaven, and for which he willingly
exchanged this life September ye 8th 1684
In ye 21st year of his age.
1 2 3
Elizabeth, John, John, Richard and Mary died in their
infancy, and were interred near their Father
Their surviving children are Robert, George, John
Dorotheæ, Elizabeth, Marthannæ.

(Near the chancel step on the south side is a stone slab to mark the burial place of Edward, son of Edward and Ruth Ann Tench, formerly Baker. There is also on the north side a marble slab to Stephen and John Penkherst of Buxted, dated 1646.)

Near the screen is a small white marble tablet to the memory of Jane Ruth, wife of Charles Strode, Esq., of Frant, daughter of the late Rev. John Kirby, vicar, who died in 1819.

In the east end of the south aisle is a monument with the words,

Here lie Interr'd the Bodies
of George Baker Gent
and Philadelphia his Wife.
Happy in their Virtues they rest
till the last Trump. Expecting an
All powerful and all merciful Saviour
Posterity shall with Pleasure see their
Example, and in pursuing it shall be blessed.
Reader imitate them and be happy.
1765.

In the south aisle over the piscina is a monument to Philadelphia Godfrey, eldest daughter of George Baker, Esq., who died in 1807, wife first of William Elsey, Esq., afterwards of Henry Godfrey, Esq. The next to it is to Richard Owen Stone, who died in 1824, his wife and children. After which may be seen a brass one to Sir Francis Sykes, Bart., of Isenhurst, who died in 1866.

Next the door is a quaint old monument, which was removed from the east end when the organ was placed there, as it would have been concealed by it from view. There is one almost identical with it and of the same period in the church of Stanmore, Middlesex, by the celebrated sculptor, Nicholas Stone; therefore this also is probably by him. It is to Thomas Aynscombe, of "Aylwins," for some time called the "Lower House." The inscription is:—

Neere this place lyeth interred ye body of Thomas
Aynscombe Esq sometime a Reader of ye Inner Temple
London. Whoe married Katherine one of ye Daughters of
Thomas Eversfield Gent by whome he had issue 2 sones
and 3 daughters living at the time of his death, and
two were buried infants. He died 20 December, 1620
In memory of whom the said Katherine by her last will
appointed this monument to be errected. And alsoe
neere this place lyeth interred the body of the saide
Katherine whoe died the 20th Day of Aprill 1633.

It will be noticed that behind the figures of two of the children on the lower part of the monument are skulls on coffins, which indicate that they died before their parents.

The church plate (with the exception of the flagon, which was presented in 1845, by the late vicar, the Rev. H. T. M. Kirby) dates from 1781, as may be seen by the churchwardens' accounts in the parish chest, as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Harbin's bill for New Plate . . .	5	10	0
Old Silver received	2	19	4
Total to pay	2	10	8

The Committee appointed to consider the best way of commemorating the Queen's Jubilee in 1887, decided on replacing the old clock, which was worn out, by a first-rate eight-day clock with chimes, the cost being met by public subscription.

It was completed by December 2nd of that year, and was set going by the vicar in the presence of a large gathering of subscribers, who assembled in the room in the tower, in which it is fixed. The works are open to view, having a glass front and back. The clock was made by Messrs. Smith and Son of Derby, and is similar in construction to the great clock at Westminster. It strikes the hours upon the tenor bell with a 60 lb. hammer, and chimes the Cambridge quarters upon the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th bells, and is fitted with all the latest improvements to ensure its perfect accuracy. The main frame is of one solid iron casting with all the various wheels, levers, and other working parts fixed to it by screws in such a manner that any separate one may be removed without interfering with the remainder. The ropes carrying the weights are made of steel wire, and work over large grooved iron pulleys. There is an apparatus attached, worked from below in the ringing chamber, to throw the chiming hammers out of gear during ringing. The cost of the whole, including fixing, was £168.

The chimes, called usually the "Cambridge Quarters," received

their name in the following way. In the year 1793, the clock of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, was taken down, and the University agreed to put up another of an improved construction, arranged to strike the quarters on four bells. The celebrated Dr. Crotch was at that time a pupil of Dr. Randall, the Regius Professor of Music, and it is said to have been his idea to take a phrase in the fifth bar of the opening symphony of Handel's air, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and expand it by variation into this musical chime, which is now sounded from many towers throughout the country, the best known of which is the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament.

In the clock chamber of Mayfield Church may still be seen the cumbrous machinery and big wooden drum, studded with iron knobs; part of an ancient system of chimes, worn out, and long disused, although an old inhabitant of the village, who died a few years ago, aged 93, could remember them in something like working order. She thought they were last used about the year 1809. The idea first entertained by the Jubilee Committee was to have these restored; and with a view to that they were examined by three celebrated firms —Bennett, of Cheapside, Benson, of Ludgate Hill, and Gillett, of Croydon. Two of these firms stated that a restoration was hopeless, and advised the Committee to waste no money on them, but allow them to remain in position as a curious relic of antiquity. The other firm merely stated they would rather have nothing to do with them.

Until the year 1887, the church clock was an old thirty-hour one, with only one hand, of which one of the dials may be seen inside the church on the west wall. It bore the date 1737, but this probably only marked structural alterations to a still older one of the year 1657. The agreement as to this between the clockmaker and churchwardens is among the papers in the church chest, and runs as follows :—

"Thomas Punnett his bond about ye Clock for 7 years.

"Know all men heerby that I Thomas Punnett of Cranebrook in the County of Kente clockmaker am held and ffirmely bound unto Samuell Jeames and Clement Read of Mayfeild in the County of Sussex, Churchwardens of the said Parish of Mayfeild ffor this presente yeare of our Lorde God 1667 ffor and in the behalfe of the said parish in the summe of Twenty Poundes of good and lawfull English money to be paid unto the said Parrish of Mayfeild or the Churchwardens of the same thatt heerafter shall or may have occasion to see the condition of theise presents fullfilld and performed unto which payment well and truely to be made and donne, I the said Tho: Punnett doe bind myselfe my heirs and administrators ffirmely by theise presentes sealed with my seale dated this thirtieth day of the moneth of June 1657.

"The condition of this obligacion is such thatt whereas the above *bonded* Thomas Punnett hath made and sett up in the parish Church of

Mayfeild one clock and two dyalles the one at the outside of the said steeple southward the other within the said Parish Church for which said clock and dyalles with all the appurtennances thereof the said Tho: Punnett hath received and doth heerby acknowledge the receipte of the just and ffull summe of elleaven poundes and tenn shillings in ffull payment and sattisfaction for the said clock and dyalls of William Wesson one of the precedent Churchwardens who did agree with him for the said clock and one of the dyalles ffor tenn pounds and of Clement Read one of the present Churchwardens thirtie shillings paid for the dyall in the Church: if therefore the said Thomas Punnett shall by himselfe his heires or administrators suffitiantly keepe and maintaine of his or theire propre cost and charge the said clock and dyalles soe thatt they doe goe well for the space of seven years next after the date heerof (excepting summe violent accident doe occasion its hurte) then this obligacion to be voyd or else to remaine in fforce."

"Sealed and delivered in the presence of
GEORGE NASH
FRANCIS COURTHOPP"

THO. PUNNETT.

Some steep wooden stairs lead from the clock chamber up to the bells.

The period at which Mayfield first boasted a peal of bells is not known. The first notice of them in the registers occurs in an account of a thunder-storm in 1621 (see page 96) when the tower was struck, and much injured, "and some of the bells rent out of their forks." The oldest existing bell has on it "F.G. 1602"—the date of its re-casting, as is shown by accounts among the Parish papers.

	£	s.	d.
Item spent at the taking downe of the little bell . . .	0	1	4
Item spent at the hanging of her up againe	0	2	0
Item payd to the bell-founder Gyles for casting of the said bell and for metall	5	0	0
Item payd to Richard Burges for one Bawderiche for the said bell	0	2	0
Item paid to John Turner for mending of the yrons of that bell and for new needles	0	0	9
Item payd to John Wenboorne for mending the claper of the littel bell twice and for needles and broddes . .	0	2	0
Item payd to him for layeng the eye of the claper of the said bell and shelting of him	0	2	0
Item payd to John Smith for carryeng the bell to Lewes and for bringing of him back againe	0	10	0
Item payd to him for one daye for himself and his man for the hanging of her up at XVI*d.* a daye a peece . .	0	2	8
Item payd to Mr. Meade at Lewes for the wayeng of the said bell twice	0	4	6

(It will be noticed that the bell is impartially called "him" and "her.")

A family of Eldridge from Chertsey were bell-founders in the seventeenth century, and had a large business in Sussex during the whole of this period. About ninety of their bells still remain at different churches throughout the county. Richard Eldridge was the first founder of that name, and his bells date from 1592 to 1623. They are generally inscribed "Our Hope in the Lord. R.E." and the date. There was afterwards a Brian Eldridge. A bell at Isfield dated 1618 is the earliest known made by him, and there are more than fifty bells of his in Sussex. The largest in the whole county by Brian Eldridge is Mayfield tenor, dated 1630, which must weigh nearly a ton. The name of William Eldridge appears on a bell at Bolney, dated 1660. Brian and William together have their names on bells in several places, then William's name alone on a number of bells down to the year 1704.

The bond between Brian Eldridge and the churchwardens of Mayfield is in the parish chest. It is dated 7th of September, 1630, "BETWEEN Bryan Eldridge of Chertsey in Surrey, Bell founder, and Richard William Herst, and William Pankherst, Church-wardens——"

"The condition of this obligation is that the above bound Bryan Eldridge, his executors, administrators, assigns, or any of them, doe from the day of this date keep the tenor bell of the Parish Church of Mayfield above named sound and tuneable to the rest of the Bells there for one whole yeere and a day, or if it shall happen the said bell to breake, or bee not sound and tuneable as aforesaid duering all the said terme, then if the said Bryan Eldridge his executors, administrators or assignes or any of them shall and doe newcast the said bell and make the same sound and tuneable to the rest of the said bells within two monthes next after warninge to him given by the Churchwardens of the Parishe aforesaid for the tyme being, and delivered unto him at his furnace in Lewes, it being taken downe carried and reecarried and hung up at the costes and charges of the Churchwardens and parishioners of the Parish aforesaid, then this presente obligacion to bee voyde and of none effect or els to stand remayne and abide in full power strength and vertue."

John Waylett, a few years later, was an itinerant founder. There are more than forty of his bells in Sussex, all cast, probably, in their own or in neighbouring parishes. In 1723 he re-cast the peal at East Hoathley. In 1774 he cast five bells at Laughton. From thence he proceeded to Lewes to re-cast the bells at St. John's, and, while he had his temporary furnace there, he re-cast the old treble of

the peal of five at Mayfield, and made the new treble, which was then added to the peal, making it one of six.

Among the churchwardens' accounts we find :—

	£	s.	d.
For Beere to the Ringers when the Bell-founder was here .	0	2	6
When the bell was weighed		3	6
When the bell was loaded		2	0
For carrying ye bell to Lewes and back again . . .	1	10	0
When ye bell was waid and hung up		3	0
For beare to the officers and severall others a hanging up ye bell		18	0
For beare to ye ringers when ye bell was hong . . .		6	6

The inscriptions on these two bells are : "The gift of John Baker, Esqre., 1724, J.W. Fecit." 2. "John Waylett made me 1724. R.F. J.M. C.W." (These initials stand for R. Fry and J. Moone, Churchwardens.) The inscriptions on the other bells are : 3. "T.G, 1602." 4. "Briannus Eldredge me fecit. W.W.R.W. 1629." 5. "Peter Baker D.D. Vicar. R. Phelps made me 1712. Mr. John Sands, John Merchant, Churchwardens." This bell was re-cast in 1899. The old inscription remains, with the addition : "Recast 1899. J. H. R. Kirby, Vicar, E. Coppard, J. B. Powell, Churchwardens." 6. "Gloria Deo in excelsis, Brianus Eldridge me fecit. R.W. 1630."

At the time the fifth bell was re-cast, the other bells were re-tuned. The old timbers, which had become unsafe, were removed, and steel girders substituted : the bells were then re-hung, so as to give room for two more, to complete a peal of eight, if desired at any future time.

CHAPTER VII.

THE parish registers of Mayfield date from the year 1570. Few churches possess old registers commencing much earlier than this, as they were unknown throughout Europe before the end of the fifteenth century, and in England were first kept by a royal injunction of Henry VIII. There certainly were monastic registers long before, as every religious establishment had its chronicle, but these did not deal with the births, deaths, and marriages of the parish generally. The same act which placed the Bible in the English language in our churches enjoined the keeping of parish registers. Stow, the historian, describing this event, says :—

"This month of September 1538, Thomas Cromwell, Lord Privy Seale, Vice-gerent to the King's Highness, sent forth injunctions to all Bishops and Curates through the realme, charging them to see that in everie parish church the Byble, of the largest volume, printed in English were placed for all men to reade in, and that a book of register were also provided, and kept in everie parish church, wherein shall be written everie wedding, chrystening, and burying, within the same Parish for ever."

The earliest Mayfield register is a very ancient-looking book, made of paper and bound in vellum. Some of the old register books are made of parchment, but this, the oldest of all, is of paper, and ends in the year 1663. It seems to have been fairly regularly kept, except during the Commonwealth, when for several years, the Rev. John Maynard being vicar, it is very faulty. (His own reasons for this are given on page 99.)

Mr. W. Courthope of the College of Arms, when examining the registers in the year 1840, says in a letter to the vicar :—

"The register is most dreadfully imperfect. Hundreds of entries must be omitted, even in the years when they do appear; and in many cases the entire year is defective. This is the more unaccountable as there are correct returns for many of the defective years at Lewes, from which I have many extracts not to be found in the register. This must have proceeded from the clergyman not making the entries at the time, and

losing them before inserting them in the book, although he sent a copy to Lewes. There is not a quarter part the number of entries in the Mayfield Register as in that of Wadhurst, although the population was much larger."

The top of the first page is much worn, and some of it altogether gone, so that all that can be made out of the heading is Ano Dni. 1570, which is followed by something illegible. There are no ruled lines; the writing is small and closely written, more than forty entries being sometimes made on one page. In the year 1570 there are forty-four baptisms, thirteen marriages, and thirty-four burials. The late vicar compared this with the Mayfield registers of 1830 (which was before the districts of Hadlow Down and Tidebrook were separated from the parish church), and he found there were eighty-nine baptisms, twenty-two marriages, and sixty-one burials, which, at a rough estimate, would make the population in 1830 nearly double what it was in 1570, if these early entries can be accepted as complete.

Baptisms, marriages, and deaths are at first entered in it promiscuously in the order in which they took place. In 1589 a more systematic plan was introduced by the Rev. George Carleton (afterwards Bishop of Llandaff, and in 1619 Bishop of Chichester), who succeeded the Rev. Thomas Goddall, the new vicar entering the marriages and burials on one page, and the baptisms on another. Two years later, a further improvement was made by dividing the page which was to contain the marriages and burials into two columns, and entering the marriages in one column, and the burials in the other. This plan is continued to the end of the book; but the vicars do not confine themselves to these entries, but jot down anything thought by them worthy of record, and thus an additional interest has been imparted to these old registers; though Mayfield boasts no entry quite so quaint as one to be seen in Buxted registers to this effect—

"The old clerke of this Parish, who had continued in the office of clerke and sexton for the space of 43 yeares, whose melody warbled forth as if he had been thumped on the back by a stone, was buried 20th September, 1666."

In looking through these first registers, it is also curious to note how many names are to be seen which are still known in this parish. Thus, the names Payne, Peckham, Wells, Burgess, Jarvys, Weston, Baker, Haseldon, Tomsett, Cogger, Moon, Humphrey, Alchorn, Bassett, Manser, Luck, Dyrrant, Cosham, Duplake, Dungate, Judd,

Lavender, Jarret, and others, are in this register of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Of the Christian names of women, in 1570, Agnes occurs the most frequently; then Johan, Mary, and Elizabeth; next, Alice, Ann, Margaret, and Martha; there is one Avis, one Brygett, one Joyse, and one Susan. Of the Christian names of men, John occurs the most frequently; then Thomas, William and Richard; Nicholas, Edmond, Edward, Robert, and Simon are not uncommon; there is one Anthony, one Brian, and one Gregory.

The entries commence, of course, in the month of March, as the 25th of March began the legal year in England until the alteration of the style in 1752.

The first few entries are here given in their exact order, and afterwards extracts merely are copied :—

The XXV day of March in the year fyrst above specyfied (1570) Willm, the sonne of Niclas Brown was baptized.

The XXVI of March Thomas Relf the elder was buryed.

The XXXI of March Alice Smith, servant to Lawrence Gardner the synger was buryed.

The I of April John the sonne of John Maynard of Bevilham the younger was buryed.

The same day Johan daughter of Rychard Collyn was baptized.

The XIII of April Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Aynscomb buryed.

The VII of Maye John Payne of Rotherfeld and Agnes Iron of this parish widowe were maryed.

The XXI of Maye Thomas the sonne of John Relf of the Oke was baptyzed and in the afternoon of the same daye buryed.

The XI of Maye George Dyne of this parish and Agnes Olyve of the parish of Battell were maryed.

The XXV of Maye William Penckherst of this parish labourer and Agnes Bychfelde of this parish were maryed.

The XXX of Maye old Mother Vyntayne was buryed.

The XXI of this moneth of June a sonne was born to William Peckhan of V. Ashes and was buryed unbaptized.

The XXIII of June old Richard Fysher was buryed.

The XXIX of June, John the sonne of Thomas Olyfe was baptyzed.

The fyrst of Jully the said John the sonne of the said Thomas Olyfe was buryed.

The second daye of July John Holland and Joyse Osborne were maryed.

The IX of August Johan the wyfe of John Holbourne buryed.

The Thyrd of September John the sonne of Jo Jarret baptized.

The XXVI of September William the sonne of Robt. Weston was baptized.

The XXVIII of September the same William was buryed.

The XXVII of September George Marchant and Agnes Relf were maryed.

The same daye Martha, the daughter of Tho. Goddall vicar, baptized.

The XII of November Mary the daughter of Robert Hadlow baptized.

The same daye Agnes the daughter of William Tosett baptized.

The XXVII of November the sonne of Rychard Russell buryed.

The XVII of Feb. Robert Thomas of West Fyrle and Johan Peckham of this parish were maryed.

The entries of one day in the succeeding year are as follows:—

The Xth of Feb. Rychard, the sonne of John Wells, was baptized.

The same day William, the sonne of William Penkerst, baptized.

The same day Mary, the daughter of Richard Russell, was baptized.

The same day Jone, the daughter of William Moodle was baptized.

The same day another daughter of the same William Moodle, borne at the same byrth that Jone was, but departing this world before she could come to baptism was buryed.

1572.

The IIII of Aprill Thomas the sonne of John Moon, labourer baptized.

The XIIIth of Aprill Mary Longley wydow and William Collyn were maryed at Heighfeld (Heathfield).

The XVII of Aprill Jone the daughter of Gregory Wylmsherst buryed.

The XXV of July Christyan the daughter of Rychard Aynscomb buryed.

The XXIX of January Davy Harly and Douty Judd were maryed.

1575.

The XXIII of October Edward Bryce of Burwash and Agnys Fowle of this parish were maryed.

The XXIII of December Martha the daughter of Gyles Fuller was baptized.

The VI of February Peter Lavender and Elizabeth de Braye were maryed.

(Baptisms 47. Marriages 13. Burials 23.)

1576.

The fyrst of Aprill Johan the daughter of Robert Cox was baptized.

The XXIX of Aprill Thomas the sonne of Thomas Goddall was baptized.

The XXI of Maye, Agnes the wyfe of John Sherwood of Wythyham was buryed.

The XXVIII of Maye John the sonne of John Sherwood of Wythyham was buryed.

The XXVIII of Maye Alice the wyfe of Dunstane Penkherst was buryed.

The VII of November Margett the daughter of Bothwell Holland was baptized.

The X of February Alexander Hazelden and Agnes Wyde were maryed.

(Baptisms 54. Marriages 11. Burials 22.)

1577.

The leaf containing the registers from August 18 to March 9 has been torn out.

1578.

The XV of Aprill Johne the wyfe of William Weston was buryed.

The XXI of Aprill Steven the sonne of Steven Bassett was baptized.

The VI of Maye, Thomas Haselden was buryed.

The XVII of June a daughter of John Relf of Homestall was born and buryed but not baptized.

The XX of June Margrett the wyfe of John Relf of Homestall was buryed.

The XXVI of June, Margarett the wife of Nicolas Tomsett was buryed.

The XVII of August Robert Turner of this parish and Mary Carpenter of Tunbridge were maryed.

The XX of September John Wyborn of the parish of Heighfeld and Elizabeth Luck of this parish were maryed.

The same daye John the sonne of Thomas Goddall Minister and Vicar of Maighfeld was baptized.

The XIII of December, Alice the daughter of Alexander Rose of Warbleton, baptized.

The XXII of February, John A. Parke of this parish and Clare Evendon of Cranebrook were maryed.

(Baptisms 63. Marriages 20. Burials 29.)

1579.

The XXVII of March, Christopher Powell of Haylesham dying in the Parsonage barn here, was buryed.

The XXIX of October, a man chylde of Richard Bowyer was born and buryed not baptized.

(Baptisms 50. Marriages 6. Burials 25.)

1580.

The III daye of Aprill, Robert the sonne of Robert Marchant was baptized.

The XI daye John Burgess of Argates Hill was buryed.

The VIII of Maye, John the sonne of John Aynscombe was baptized.

The same daye, Marye the daughter of William Burgesse of Rotherfield was baptized here.

The XXV of Maye, Richard Hylder of the parish of Seaforde, bachelour was buryed.

The XXVI of June, Elizabeth the daughter of John Relf of the Oke was baptized.

The XI of July Thomas Parker of Portslade and Susan Lucke of this Parish were maryed.

The XVII of July, Richard the sonne of old William Burgess of Bromefelds was baptized.

The XXVIII of August, John the sonne of William Burgess of Coleshall was baptized.

The XI January, Martha the wyfe of John Weston of Mousehale quarter was buryed.

The XIIII of January Wylliam Weston of Mousehale quarter the elder was buryed.

I March, Agnes, ye doughter of one Thomas Palmer, a stranger and dwelling last in Norwyche (as he said), and using ye trade of makyng hopp gardens, was here baptized.

(Baptisms 57. Marriages 7. Burials 40.)

1581.

XXV of March, Alice ye daughter of John Huggate was baptized.

IIII of Aprill, Margaret ye daughter of Peter Lavender was buryed.

XXV Maye, old John Smyth the labourer was buryed.

XXIII January William the sonne of one Woodman Ledger of ye parish of Westfeld in this county of Sussex was buryed here in the churchyard of Maighfeld.

6 Feb. A yong little infant mayden chylde of John A. James was born, dead, and buryed unbaptized.

(Baptisms 49. Marriages 13. Burials 28.)

1582.

XXVI of Aprill Thomas Relf brother to John Relf of the Oke a bachelor was buryed.

XII August. Agnes the daughter of Wylliam Burgess of Bromefelds the eldest was baptized.

XXVI Aug. Wylliam the sonne of John Relf of Homestall was baptized.

The same daye Rychard the sonne of Rychard Hart of Wythyham . . . at Alexander Gubbyn's house of this parish was buryed.

XXII October Isaak Collyn and Mary Newington of ye parish of Sayleherst were maryed.

XI daye of February Thomas Deane of this parish and Elizabeth Stevens of the parish of Heighfeld were maryed at ye request and consent of Mr. Myles Vicar of Heighfeld aforesaid.

(Baptisms 55. Marriages 13. Burials 22.)

1583.

The Vth of Maye John Wybourne of the parish of Tyseherst and Susan Baker of this parish were maryed.

The XXVth daye of November Rychard Colsle servant to Thomas Dyrrant and killed by William Dyrrant his fellow servant was, after the viewe and verdict of the Coroner of this parishe and 12 men had first and gyven uppon hym, buryed.

The VIIIth daye of December Phoras Androw supposed to be starved in the house of John Banx of this parishe was, after the sitting of Mr. Fowle the Coroner uppon hym, buryed.

The XXVIIIth of January Thomas Huggate and Alice Alighe of this parish were maryed bye license from Mr. Kytts without asking of the bonds of matrimonie between them.

The IInd of March Rychard Bygg and Alice Kyrwyn of Benenden were maryed here by a license.

(Baptisms 47. Marriages 18. Burials 18.)

1584.

The Vth of Aprill, Thomas the sonne of Robert Rose was baptized.

The same daye John the sonne of William Maun of Spidlighe was also baptized.

The XIIII day of June John the sonne of Wylliam Weston of the myll was baptized.

The XXIXth (of August) Chrystyan ye doughter of a poore Irishe woman delyvered in the Church Porch was baptized.

1585.

The IInd daye of Maye, George the sonne of John Moone of the brook was baptized.

The XI of June a chylde of one Wylliam Wylliams of Buxtead (who with his wyfe were in this parish to help Robert Devenishe to wede corn) borne into ye worlde was buryed unbaptized.

1586.

(30 April) The same daye Rychord Rubexe born sonne of one Susan Shoven a roogish woman was baptized, whoe uncivilie and uncharitably and not without great danger was brought to our parrishe and forced to be kept and contynewed here by certayne of ye parish of Frant, contrarye

to a warrant directed to them by Mr. Morley, untill ye said Susan had thorowghlye recovered her strength after her delyverance and due tryall made to what parishe her placing dyd appertayne by y^e^ lawes of this our Realme. The partyes which brought her y^e^ forenamed Susan hither were Edward a Down, one Mother Millword and a nother woman of Frant whose name I could not yett learne.

1587.

The second of Aprill Debora the daughter of William Weston of Cokyngsmill was baptized.

The XXI daye old John Martyn of Hadlowe Down was buryed.

The XXVIII of Maye little John Weston the sonne of John Weston of Sharndean being kylled with the falling of earth uppon him in a marle pitt and first sett uppon by the coroner was buryed.

The XIth of June, old Thomas Collyn of Bybleham was buryed.

The XXIXth of June an old Frenchman which dyed in y^e^ barn of Robert Eridge was buryed. (The term "Frenchman" affords no clue to his nationality as by the old laws every "outlandish" man if killed or found dead was deemed "Francigena" until "Englecery" was proved; the manner of proving him to be an Englishman was before the Coroner by two men that knew the father and two women that knew the mother.)

The VIII of October, John the sonne of John Cosham was baptized.

The same day (X December) Michaell the sonne of Thomas Baker was baptized.

The VIII of January old John Duplake of V. Ashes quarter was buryed.

The tenth daye of March was Henry the sonne of Maister Henry Nevell Esquier baptized.

1590.

Anno Dom, 1590.—"Upon Thursday, the 9th of July, a great part of Maighfield was burned with fire. The fire first took hold of John Luck his house, by chance in brewing, then it took the houses of William Cotin, Robert Cotin, Robert Wimble, an almes house, Mr. Nevill his barne, with some other outhouses."

1591.

The 19 of November, olde John Edwards of 84 years maried Elenor Burgess of 16 years att Buxtead.

1603.

March 24th at 2 of clock in morning died that famous prince the peaceable and glorious nursing mother of the Church in her dayes, Queen Elizabeth.

An. Dom' 1605.
An: regni regis Jacobi 3.

Guilelmus Whitfeld vicarius inductus in ecclesiam de Mayfeld, 22 die Februarii anno regni serenissimi Regis Jacobi 3.

1606.

William Beeny the sonne of Symon was buried the 29th of December in a field adioyning to the house his father dwelleth in because it was suspected he died of the plage.

Gyles Beeny another sonne also buried same way—24th Jan.

Robert Beeny another sonne 3 Feb.

Zabulon Beeny ,, ,, 15 Feb.

1606 (7) Luke Palmer was buryed the third of this January in the night because it was suspected he died of the plage.

1608.

Alice Stubberd the wife of Richard being above an hundred yeares old was buryed the 19th of this September.

1610.

Jhon Peckham of Heffeild being above an hundred yeares ould was buryed the 22th of this Maye.

Mr. William Whitfeld Vicar of Mayfeld was buried the eighth of November.

Johannes Luck Theologiæ Baccalaureus inductus in Vicariam de Maighfeld 21 November anno 1610.

Anno Dom. 1611. Upon the Sabath day, being the 15th day of March, about eight o'clock in the night arose a great fyre in the house of Thomas Steven at the west end of Maighfield towne and burnt downe both his house and the next house adjoining, and sett on fyre another house and also a barne. The fyre by God's great providence was putt out, the whole towne being in great danger by reason of the violence of the wynd, which then was towards the west.

1616.

24 July 1616, Sir Thomas May knight buried. (A public funeral at Westminster Abbey.)

1621.

March the 18th, Anno Domini, 1621, in a great lightening and thunder, about five of the clock at night, upon a Monday, were all the stone-work of the top of the wyndows of the south isle in the church

racked and a great hoal at the east end of that isle in the top of the wyndow, and two great hoales in the west end made, one at the top and the other below the wyndow, thorow the wall, and a mayne stone of the water table besyde the chancell dore broken out at the outsyde, and two holes made within the chancell in the south wall, and another on the south syde of the steeple, and the falling dore in the lower loft lifted up out of his place upward, and the glass broken downe and the bars of the wyndows in the steeple beaten outward, and a thick plank in the upper loft broken asunder, and some of the bells rent out of their forks, and a pece of the north west corner of the stone wall thrust out, and the stones cast a great distance westward from the steeple, and of a great tye beame the top part at one end rent of, and many of the shingles on the west side of the steeple blowne of and scattered a far of, the rafters on that syde thrust out of their places, and at the top of the steeple the most part of the shyngles round about blowne of, and the rest standing loose upwards, and the lead at the lower end of the shaft a great part of it blowen of and the rest turned upward, the fane itself blowen of, and the shaft itself loosened from the top of the rafters, the shaft breaking asunder the beame whereon it stood.

(The repairs of the damage caused by this storm were badly executed ; bricks were used to fill up spaces in the stone-work, to the great disfigurement of the church. These were removed when the exterior was restored in 1894.)

The next few years are chiefly remarkable for the curious Christian names. Two women bear that of Euphorix—Euphorix Hoodsby and Euphorix Dungatt. There are the Puritan ones of Obedience, Feargod, Faithful, and Repentance ; we meet with one Persis, one Methuslah, one Silvester, one Linus, one Quintyn, and one Sindonye.

1624.

March 27 being Sabbath Day, about 11 of the clock in the morning, died that Noble Monarch our gratious King James.

July 12th was buried John Lucke bachelor of Divinity, Vicar of Mayfeild.

July 1st John Maynard, Master of Arts, was inducted into the Vicarage of Mayfield.

Feb. 9th being Wednesday, were marryed at Wadherst John Maynard, minister, and Margaret Lucke. (Daughter of the late Vicar.)

Anno Dom. 1626.

In the former part of this summer there was an extraordinary great time of raine and apparent danger of famine, whereupon a publick fast

was proclaimed throughout the Kingdom to be kept on this 2nd of August, which accordingly being performed, it pleased the Lord in great mercy the very same day to send a comfortable sunshine, and, after that, very seasonable and faire harvest weather, the like whereof hath seldom been with so little intermission or mixture of raine; herein verifying his promise—Psalm 50—Thou shalt call upon mee in the time of trouble and I will deliver thee—Our duty followeth—And thou shalt glorify mee.

1628.

This yeere George Duke of Buckingham was murthered by John Felton.

1629.

14 May. Luke Merchaunt, sonne of Richard, being above one yeere old, was baptized with the consent of John Elliott Retherfeild who was grandfather unto the sayd infant by the mother's side, the parents both obstinately refusing.

Buried January 27, Margaritt daughter of John Maynard, Pastour.

Anno 1636.

June 28, being Wednesday, Mr. John Maynard, Vicar, and Mrs. Margaret Withers, widowe, were married at St. Edmonds, Lombard Street, London.

Anno 1638.

Baptized March 9, Margaret, daughter of Mr. John and Margaret Maynard.

1639.

Buryed March 25, Margaret daughter of Mr. John Maynard, Vicar.

1640.

Baptized May 6, Margaret, the daughter of Mr. John Maynard and Margaret deceased.

Buried May 6, Margaret Maynard, the wife of Mr. John Maynard, Vicar.

1642.

Buried September 16, Susanna Maynard, daughter of Mr. John Maynard, Vicar.

There is a tablet in St. Saviour's Southwark, with the inscription—

"Near unto this place lyeth The Body of Mistris Margrit Maynard, The Daughter of Master John Maynard, Minister of Mayfield in Sussex, Who departed this life March the 14th, 1653. Being aged 13 years 10 months and 14 dayes."

From 1645 to 1660 the Registers were very badly kept; the following memorandum in Mr. Maynard's handwriting, without a date, appears to have been written in the latter year.

"I, being called to the assembly of divines did offer to give up all tithes due from the parishioners for the mayntenance of a minister; but through the backwardness of many in not paying their dues and (it may be) by the negligence of some in not being active to procure a fit man for the place, and to give him encouragement, there was no constant minister for some time and afterwards divers changes, so that the Register was neglected for divers years. Jo. Maynard."

For part of this time, however, there was a curate of the name of Elias Paul D'Arranda, who had previously held curacies at Petworth and Patcham. This arrangement of allowing him to have the tithes was followed; Mr. Maynard keeping the vicarage house and glebe in his own hands. Mr. D'Arranda, later on, was pastor of the French or Walloon Church in the undercroft of Canterbury Cathedral. This was after the ejection of the non-conforming ministers in 1662, when Mr. Maynard was deprived of his benefice, and Mr. D'Arranda of his curacy, on St. Bartholomew's Day, though Maynard continued to live in the parish up to the time of his death, which occurred about three years later, presumably at Cranesden, a property belonging to his patron, Mr. John Baker, to which he retired. He was still held in high esteem by his former flock, and it is said that his successor, Mr. Peck, was presented to the vicarage with his sanction.

Maynard's name does not occur in a book published by John Walker, M.A., in 1714, entitled, "An attempt towards recovering an Account of the Numbers and Sufferings of the Clergy of the Church of England . . . who were Sequestered, Harrass'd . . . in the late Times of the Grand Rebellion." But the following account taken from it, of what befell Mr. Large, the Rector of Rotherfield, at that time, will show for what trifles a man could be deprived.

"Large. Rotherfield. Worth £300 a year.

"He was accused of Sabbath breaking and Superstition. The proof of the former was His collecting Tythes on the Lord's Day. The whole truth of which matter was, that his Servant (without his knowledge or consent, much less his order,) did one Sunday after Evening Service, to save himself Trouble, ask one of the Parishioners, who lived at a distant part of the Parish, for his Master's dues. And the Proof of the other Allegation was his having *broken a Cake over a Bride's Head;* which Mr. Large indeed owned he had done, but withal added that it was as he himself conceived, a thing *in itself* neither *Good* nor *Bad*, as many other

such Customs were. However his judges were of a Contrary Opinion, and without permitting some Council, which were Present to speak for him, they proceeded to a Sequestration, *though they had not one thing to object against his Morals*, for he was a Person of an unblameable Life and Conversation."

The following short sketch of John Maynard is taken from Wood's "Athenæ."

"John Maynard, esteemed by those of his persuasion an eminent and judicious Divine, was born of a genteel family in Sussex; he became a commoner of Queen's College, Oxford, in 1616, whence he transferred himself to Magdalen Hall. In 1622 he took the degree of Master of Arts as a compounder, entered into Holy Orders, and at length became Vicar of Maighfeild, in his own county; but, when the rebellion broke out, he showed himself more of a Puritan, and preached with more liberty than before; whereupon being appointed one of the Assembly of Divines, he took the Covenant, held forth several times before the Long Parliament, had other preferments, I presume, bestowed upon him, and in 1654 was appointed one of the assistants to the Commissioners for the ejection of such whom they called ignorant and scandalous ministers and school-masters. He was the author of several published sermons, and of a work called 'The Young Man's Remembrancer,' and 'The Old Man's Monitor.'"

One of his published sermons "preached at Margaret's, Westminster, on the Day of the Publick Fast,* October 28th, 1646," is at the vicarage.

The following order is printed with it:—

"Die Mercurii; 28 Octb. 1646. Ordered by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, that Collonel Stapley do from this House give thanks to Mr. Maynard for the great pains he took in the Sermon he Preached this day at the entreaty of this House at St. Margaret's Westminster (it being the Day of Publick Humiliation), and desire him to Print his Sermon. And he is to have the like Priviledge in Printing of it as others in the like kinde usually have had. H. Elysyng Cler. Parl. Com."

A volume of his sermons was dedicated to the different members of the Baker family, and to Clement Read (a leading tradesman, who married a Miss Baker), and other parishioners. They were published

* The days of public fasting and humiliation were numerous during the Commonwealth, and in the Churchwardens' accounts of St. Margaret, Westminster, the following item occurs: "Paid for herbs that were strewed in the windows of the Church and about the same att two severall daies of humiliation, 3*s.* 10*d.*" Again is to be seen in the year 1651: "Paid for herbs that were strewed in the Church on the 24th day of May, being a day of humiliation, 3*s.*"

after his death by H. Hurst, at the instance, he says, of Maynard's son-in-law.

Mr. Maynard's tombstone is what is locally called a "table monument," the sides formed of two large stones about four feet in length and one in height, and the ends by stones of the same height, by two feet in length on a plinth six inches high; the top is a large slab, six feet by three, and eight inches thick, of green sandstone. It is about half-way between the east end of the church, and the eastern boundary of the churchyard, with this inscription on it in Latin :—

M. S.

R. John Maynard, Coll. Regin. Oxon. Art. Mag., Ingenio Sagaci, Re Historica periti, Æquis Moribus & Verendâ Gravitate Theologi, pariter & concionatoris summe pii & eruditi, qui per Annos XL Mayfieldensi Gregi (eo felici aut infelici magis) Lumen & Decor affulsit: Tandem seculi pertæsus, Cœlo Maturus, Christo Æternum fruiturus hinc migravit, Jan. 7. 1665.—Hic quod Mortale erat exuendum deponi voluit.

& M. Annæ, filiæ Henrici Engham, piæ matronæ, conjugis fidelis, in Christo propius obdormientis. Obiit. 7 Sept 1670.

Which may be thus translated :—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. John Maynard, Master of Arts of Queen's College Oxford, a Divine of great ability, skilled in history, of courteous manners and reverend gravity, and also a preacher of the greatest piety and learning, who shone for forty years the light and ornament of his flock at Mayfield (by so much the more happy or unhappy): at length weary of the world and ripe for heaven, he departed hence to enjoy eternal rest in Christ, January 7th, 1665. And also to the memory of Ann, the daughter of Henry Engham, a pious matron, a faithful wife (who lies) sleeping in Christ near this spot; she died 7th September, 1670.

Not far from this tomb, the remains of a yew tree will be noticed; not of an especially fine specimen, but evidently of great age. It has survived a fire in its trunk, a few years ago, caused probably by a carelessly thrown lighted match. There are three others also to the left.

On the south side of the churchyard, near the yews, are some quaintly carved headstones, which may possibly have been executed by Walter Gale, the first schoolmaster of the parish, whose diary has been preserved. In this he more than once mentions cutting tombstones; and he may have taken up this occupation after his dismissal from the post of schoolmaster in 1771.

One represents the good Samaritan, and is to the memory of

Ann, wife of John Soper, who died in 1790. Below are lines, commencing :—

"A Pale Consumption gave the fatal blow
The stroke was certain, though the effect was slow."

One has an urn and flowers ; and another depicts the Resurrection, an open coffin with skeleton on one side of a medallion, the figure of a man on the other. The medallion bears the words

"When the last trumpet shall sound, the dead shall arise."

One has a cherub strewing flowers over a tomb ; another, next the single yew, has a basket of flowers, a book, and an hour-glass. All bear dates of the end of the eighteenth century, and are apparently the work of one hand.

Near the headstone with the urn and flowers, partly obscured by a shrub growing against it, is another headstone in memory of Edward Bridger, who died in 1835, having inscribed on it these quaint lines :—

O Reader, if that thou canst read,
Look down upon this stone.
Do all we can, Death is a man
That never spareth none.

On the churchyard wall close by there is an oval tablet, bearing the words :—

In a Vault
Near this place is deposited the Body of
Nicholas Stone, late of this Town
Surgeon, who died on the 19th Day of Nov.
1784, in the 42nd Year of his Age.
Reader,
Rather increase thine own Vertues than inquire after his
Which are too well known to require an Epitaph
to ennumerate them
And will not be forgot by HIM
Who is able to reward them.

Opposite the west or Tower door are two table monuments to the Fry family. On the top of the nearer one the inscription runs :—

Passenger,
If you dread the universal Power
of Death,
Know that He detains here,
which is the utmost He can do,

only
the material Particles
which compose the
corporeal Part
of Hannah, Wife of
John Fry,
of this Parish.
Her Exit from this World
was
on the 5th Day of Febr
1780,
After residing in it
72 years.

Those who the longest lease enjoyed
Have told us with a sigh,
That to be born seems little more
Than to begin to die.

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.

Below the yew tree, to the south, lies the new portion of the churchyard, consecrated on July 10th, 1865, by Bishop Gilbert of Chichester.

The ecclesiastical parish of Mayfield was reduced in the nineteenth century by four new parishes (each with a church) on its outskirts.

I. Hadlow Down, a hamlet four miles S.W. from Mayfield, and two miles E. from Buxted. The ecclesiastical parish was formed, in 1837, from the parishes of Buxted and Mayfield; and the living is in the gift of the Rector of Buxted and Vicar of Mayfield alternately.

II. Tidebrook, a hamlet, partly in Mayfield, and partly in Wadhurst, two and a half miles S.E. from Mayfield. The church was consecrated in 1856, but a district was not assigned to it by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners until 1858. The living is in the gift of the Vicars of Wadhurst and Mayfield, alternately. The population is included in Wadhurst.

III. Mark Cross, formed, in 1874, from portions of the four parishes of Mayfield, Rotherfield, Tidebrook, and Wadhurst.

IV. Burwash Weald, formed, by Order in Council Oct. 30, 1877, from the three parishes of Burwash, Heathfield, and Mayfield. The church was built in 1867

CHAPTER VIII.

THERE are various documents in the church chest which throw some light on the history and government of the parish for the past two centuries or more. The papers date from 1612, but the books of the churchwardens and overseers do not commence until a century later.

We will first give extracts from papers and books that deal with the church itself. The agreement of 1657 about the first church clock has already been quoted, also that between Brian Eldridge, the bell-founder, and the churchwardens. Another paper in the same roll is an agreement between Adrian Vandike, of the Cliffe, near Lewes, and Richard Wilmesherst and William Pankherst, churchwardens of Mayfield, which states that in consideration of the sum of £5 5*s*. the said Adrian Vandike covenants

"to keepe and maintayne the leades and every part thereof over the South Ile of the Church of Mayfield aforesaid, upon tenn dayes warninge to him given by these the said Richard and William, or their assignes, water tite without leake from the Feast daie of St. John Baptist's last past before the date hereof unto the full end and duering the terme of five whole yeares from thenceforth next ensueing and fully to bee compleat and ended."

The churchwardens agree to pay the said Adrian (Vandike) the sum of twelve pence yearly, during the aforesaid term. This is dated 20 August, 1630.

The archbishop's faculty for the erection of a gallery at the west end of the church is among the papers in the chest, and is as follows:—

"William, by Divine providence, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, or may concern, and especially to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being of the Parish of Mayfield, in the Deanery of South Malling, in the County of Sussex, sendeth greetings. Whereas Robert Hooper, Vicar, Richard Day and Samuel Duplock, Churchwardens, of the said parish, and the principal inhabitants of the said parish, are desirous to promote

the singing of Psalms in the said church to the honour of Almighty God in the most decent and orderly manner, and do judge that a gallery, to be built at the west end of the parish church, will be convenient to answer to that end; And whereas the said Vicar and Churchwardens and inhabitants of the said parish, at a publick vestry held in and for the said parish, at the usuall place, pursuant to publick notice of the said Vestry given in the said parish church, did agree that a gallery should be erected in the west end of the said parish church for the use of the singers of Psalms, therein containing—in length twenty and six feet, in breadth eighteen feet, and that such gallery, so to be built, will not prejudice the lights of the said church, or the seats of any of the inhabitants of the said parish as appears by certificate under their hands, and did thereupon petition us, and the worshipfull Dr. Bettsworth Dean, and our Commissary of the said Deanery of South Malling to have our leave and licence to build and erect a gallery of the aforesaid dimensions in the west end of the aforesaid parish church, and that the same might be appropriated and confirmed to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said parish for the time being, for the sole use of the singers of Psalms within the said parish church to perform all acts of devotion to Allmighty God therein; And whereas a citation with an information under our said Commissary's seal for the said Deanery was fixt upon the door of the said parish church of Mayfield on Sunday, the twelfth day of this instant month of March, remained there during the time of Divine service, whereby publick notice was duely given that any of the inhabitants of the said parish or any other persons whatsoever who had any right, title, pretence or reason to alledge, contradick or oppose the building or erecting a gallery of the before mentioned dimensions in the said parish church of Mayfield, for the use of the singers there, or our licence being granted for that purpose, might appear before our said Commissary or his surrogate on the seventeenth day of this instant month of March in the parish church of Saint Thomas in the Cliffe, near Lewes, and shew their reason and interest; And whereas no person did appear, nor was any reason alledg'd or cause shewn at the said time and place or since why such licence should not be granted: Know ye, therefore, that wee, the said Archbishop and Commissary aforesaid, well weighing the premises and approving the pious intentions of the said Vicar, Churchwardens and inhabitants of the said parish for us and our successors by our authority, ordinary and Archiepiscopall, as far as by law we can or may, have given and granted to the said Vicar, Churchwardens, and inhabitants of the said parish of Mayfield, licence and authority to erect, build, and set up in the said parish church, in the west end thereof, a gallery containing twenty and six feet in length and eighteen feet in breadth, and the said gallery, when erected and set up, doe, at the request of the said Vicar, Churchwardens and inhabitants of the said parish, assign, and appropriate and confirm to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said parish of Mayfield for the time being, for the sole use of such persons of the said parish who shall sing Psalms skillfully and well, to the honour of

Allmighty God, in the said parish church, from time to time to sit, kneel and remain in during the time of Divine service, singing of Psalms, sermon, and the performance of such other religious rites, ceremonies, dutys and devotion to Allmighty God which are or may by the laws of this realm from time to time be commanded in such manner and form, and subject to such rules and directions as to place and precedency, as by the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said parish for the time being shall be agreed on or settled for the improvement of singing Psalms and the encouragement of the skillfull singing of the same, and the preserving decency and order in the said church, provided that the said gallery to be built do no prejudice or damage whatsoever to the said church or the lights or walls thereof, or to the seat or seats of any inhabitant or inhabitants of the said parish. And we further order that some of the singers of the said parish who may have a right to sit or be placed in the said gallery doe sometimes disperse themselves into the body of the said church for the direction and assistance of such persons as shall have a pious intention of learning to sing; and we doe hereby give and grant full power and authority to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said parish for the time being to dispose and order the seats and sitting places in the said gallery not allotted or reserved for the singers thereof to such person or persons of the said parish as to them shall seem most convenient. In testimony whereof we have caused our said Commissary's seal to be affix'd to these presents, the twentieth day of March, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and thirty one.

"RICCORD LARDNER, Register Dept."

We are not told whether the Psalms were at first sung without accompaniment, but it would seem as if musical instruments were in use not long afterwards, to judge from the following paper :—

"*July ye 19th*, 1775.

"Recd. of the Churchwardens of Mayfield one bassoon, one book of instructions and one reed case for the use of Mayfield Church, which I promise to deliver to the Churchwardens then being when required safe and sound.

"THOS. WESTON."

Many elderly people remember violins and other instruments in the gallery; and it is a fact that between seventy and eighty years ago the clerk, who was the chief musician, and the singers were at variance as to the tunes to be used. Before any musical portion of the service he left his seat below the pulpit and ascended to the gallery to play the accompaniments. So strained were the relations between himself and the singers that on one particular Sunday, when he played his chosen tune, dead silence prevailed among them; if they could not sing as they wished, they would not sing at all. The

following Sunday, instead of mounting the stairs, he stood below the gallery and called up to them: "Be ye a-going to sing to-day or bain't ye? Because if ye bain't a-going to sing, I bain't a-going to play!"

The churchwardens' accounts are at one end of the books, and the parish accounts at the other. From the former we find that a church tax of 6*d.* in the pound was made in the year 1713; in 1715 it was 3*d.*; in 1717, 10*d.*; in 1725, and for some years later, it had risen to 1*s.* (Extensive repairs were then in progress.) In 1743–4, it was as high as 1*s.* 6*d.*, after which it was again 1*s.* Non-residents are entered as "Foreigners."

There was formerly a tablet in the church recording the fact that in 1720 Michael Baker gave ten tons of timber for the new roof, and afterwards an additional quantity for the belfry. Nine years later, George Piper charges £2 5*s.* for carrying nine loads of timber from Cranesden to the church. In the next year Joseph Beale, the clerk, charges 5*s.* "for cleaning the church, chancel, and gallery after the carpenters and masons," but the "new pueing" was not completed until 1764.

"Ye New Gallery" (the gallery at the west end of the nave) was put in this year. An entry under 1727 for "mending ye gallery floore," refers to the one on the north side, which was called the old gallery and was taken down in 1868.

In 1725 Joseph Beale the clerk's fees "For washing ye surplice and table linen, and scouring ye cups and flagons and candlesticks 3 times," are 15*s.*

"For bread for the three Communions," 2*s.* 4*d.*

"For clendsing ye bells," 4*s.*

"For opening ye dick from ye Chancell door," 1*s.* 6*d.*

"For my fees for marrying Watt's man and woman," 2*s.* 6*d.*

"For clendsing ye Scoule house leds, and passages and spouts," a yearly charge is made by him of 4*s.* 6*d.*

(The "Scoule house" was part of the west end of the church itself.)

There is also a yearly charge of 2*s.* 6*d.* for "toleing ye bell to ye Surveyors," and the same sum "for engrossing ye Register."

Thomas Hosman is paid 3*s.* "for looking after ye clock and chimes, and ringing ye eight o'clock bell."

Thomas Luck is paid 7*s.* 6*d.* "for looking after ye boays, and keeping ye doags out of ye Church."*

* To prevent any breach of discipline by the intrusion of dogs during Divine worship, an official known as "the dog-whipper" was paid an

Another entry is "Beer delivered for ye workmen and ringers when ye Great Bell was hung up," 5*s*.

Mr. Moone, the churchwarden, has in his accounts:—

"Gave to a man by the lost of fire upon the site of Several well-disposed and Charitable people's hands to his Papers," 5*s*.

"For killing of hedgehoggs and other vermin," 1*s*.

"Mepham's bill. For killing of 21 hedghoggs at 2*d*., 3*s*. 6*d*."

These latter entries constantly occur.

In this year Beale pays John Bushnell 3*s*. 6*d*. for binding of the Church Common Prayer Book.

In 1727, the large sum of 6*d*. is paid "for mending ye Gallary floor."

A new gate for the church cost "for felling and hewing a tree," 2*s*. Sawing out the gate, 2*s*. 6*d*. "Making ye posts, and setting up ye gate, 2*s*. 6*d*."

April.—"For beare to ye Hunters for killing a Badger, 2*s*. 6*d*."

May 28 and 29.—"Beare to ye ringers for King George the Second Succession to the Crowne," 10*s*.

In May the hunters again receive beer for killing a badger, to the amount of 2*s*. 6*d*.; and they get 10*s*. worth on "ye King's Coronation Day," and 5*s*. worth on his birthday. Also—in the reign of George II.—on Queen Anne's birthday!

In 1729, an agreement was drawn up between the churchwardens and inhabitants on the one part, and Robert Cosham on the other, to "re-cast the leds," he to have 4*s*. per cwt. in exchange, weight for weight, and he to lay it downe; and 22*s*. for new lead, weight for weight. Cosham's bill for plumbing was £58. Hosman's for the gallery and communion table was £50. Another bill of his was for "49 days' work at the church, myself, and 52 days, my son," £4 3*s*. 4*d*. and £4 6*s*. 8*d*.

The Richardsons' bill the same year was:—

"A loade of loame, 1*s*.; a bushell and 3 gallons of hair, 1*s*. 4½*d*.; 475 plain tiles, 9*s*. 6*d*.; two loads of sand, 3*s*.; 225 hart lathes, and 1262 bricks at 2*s*., £1 5*s*. 3*d*.; a carredge of lime, £1 17*s*. 0*d*." They charge 1*s*. 6*d*. per day for their work. Mr. Paine sends 3,000 playne tiles for 10*s*., and 400½ for 7*s*. 6*d*.; a hundred of bricks from him are 5*s*.

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annual stipend to keep watch. Numerous entries illustrative of this practice occur in parish registers and churchwardens' accounts. It seems to have lingered in some out-of-the-way parishes as late as the commencement of the nineteenth century. "Church Lore Gleaning," T. A. Thiselton Dyer.

The Church Tax in this year amounts to £130 17*s.* 8*d.*, and bills are paid to the amount of £124 1*s.* 0*d.*

In 1730 Thomas Hosman charges £12 10*s.* 0*d.* for shingling the steeple, and the clerk supplies him with beer while at work on it. "For takeing downe the vane and putting it up againe," he charges 3*s.* only, and for the new vane and spindle, hook and balance £3 4*s.* 3*d.*, and he signs an agreement to keep the steeple in repair for ten years. His bill for "part of building of the gallery and the Communion Table" is £50, and there is another of his for £32, which includes "all the timber railes round the Communion Table." "Framing the King's Arms, and backing of it with deale bords, and making of a diall bord, and a Communion Table, and benches round the railes."

George Piper's bill for carrying nine loads of timber from Cranesden to the church is £2 5*s.* 0*d.*

Six new bell ropes cost £1 1*s.* 0*d.*; and the chime rope 10*s.* 6*d.*

Beale charges 1*s.* 3*d.* for mending the pulpit cloth and cushion. Small charges are often entered for mending the surplice. A new bason for the font costs 4*d.*

In 1749 Bassett's bill for looking after the chimes was £2 2*s.* 6*d.*, including a new chime rope.

The "Branch" (candelabra) is cleaned every year for 2*s.* 6*d.*; and the yearly charge for ringing the eight o'clock bell is £1.

In 1764 William Weston charges £1 4*s.* 6*d.* "for building a pair of stocks, and other work at the Church," which would seem to imply the stocks were in the churchyard itself; but a very old parishioner remembers them in the village against the stone wall by the steps leading to the churchyard, but she does not recollect actually seeing anyone undergo the punishment of the stocks.

William Weston in this year does up the seats under the gallery "for the poor people to sett of the Workhouse."

In 1770 comes an entry: "Mr. Dungate's bill, for money he paid about shingleing of the Steeple and other work," £14 11*s.* 0*d.*

In 1774 "A Sett of Bell ropes" cost £1 10*s.* 0*d.*

In 1775 Jonthan Stephen charges £9 8*s.* 7*d.* for repairing the pulpit.

In 1776 John Parfitt charges £1 2*s.* 0*d.* for paving the walk to the church.

In 1777 Wm. Stirkland's bill "for the Church gates and som painting, and Seats in the Porch" comes to £5 16*s.* 2*d.*

In 1779 Robert Gilbert charges £12 3*s.* 0*d.* for Shingleing; and

four years later his bill "for laying of Shingles on the Church steeple" came to £7 19*s.* 4*d.*

Probably it was in a very bad state, and in 1791, the work was thoroughly done, to judge from the very exact accounts, which are as follows :—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
To W. Olive, Bill for Nails for the use of the Steeple	3	16	3
William Elliott and William Weston Bill for Shingleing the Steeple and for laying 9,122 at 5*s.* per hundred	22	16	9
Mending 8,683 at do.	21	14	4
To dressing old Shingles at 9*d.* per hundred	1	12	7
To making pins at 6*d.* the hundred, 4,675	1	3	4½
To making the cradle and getting up the Tacklen		15	0
To Puting on 5 Iren Dogs		5	0
Taking off and Puting on the Vane	1	1	0
Lon. . . (?) money at 1*s.* 8*d.* in the pound	4	2	3
Joseph Foster's bill for Ironwork	2	14	6
W. Bassett's bill for New Vane	11	3	9
Jonn. Stevens' bill for paint		4	2
G. Wilmhurst's bill for 3 dogs and brads		4	5
William Weston, sen., for Nails	1	13	4
John Bushnell's bill for laying the Vane with leaf gold	4	9	3
John Pain bill for bord and shingles	15	7	7
Paid by David Collins for 6,000 of Shingles	15	0	0
	£108	3	6½

From this sum was deducted 18*s.* 9*d.*, which was allowed for the old vane by William Bassett.

In 1782 Mr. Farmer receives the sum of 1*s.* "which he paid for a Proclamation of a Fast."

In 1785 Mr. Farmer pays 2*s.* 6*d.* for two reeds for the bassoon.

Notices of the "charity bread" begin about this period. (Thomas Baker, Esq., who died in the year 1782 left a house and land to the Vicar and Churchwardens in order that "weekly and every week for ever" loaves of "good and wheaten flour" should be distributed to the poor of the parish. This bread is given each Sunday at the close of the afternoon service.)

In 1794 the cost of the "charity bread" for the year amounts to £5 4*s.* 0*d.*

Other charitable bequests to the parish are as follows :

Michael Baker, the only son of the Rev. Peter Baker, who died in 1750, left a rent charge of 2*s.* per week "issuing and payable out of certain lands and premises called Bungehurst."

Michael Baker, Esq., by his Will, dated March 2nd, 1771, gave £100 to the Trustees of the Charity School.

Edward Holmes Baldock, of Hyde Park Place, Middlesex, Esq., by his Will, dated 25th January, 1844, left the sum of £750 to the churchwardens for the time being of the parishes of Uckfield, Buxted and Mayfield. The dividends to be distributed on his birthday, the 14th of May, to such poor persons as may be selected, preference being given to those who have not during the current year received parish relief. The third of the £750, less legacy duty of £25, namely £225, has been duly transferred unto the name of the Official Trustee of Charitable Funds, and since the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888, has been represented by the like amount of £2¾ Consolidated Stock Annuities.

Benjamin Tompsett, Esq., by his Will, dated 1st January, 1859, bequeathed to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds the sum of £300 to be held by them upon trust to pay the dividends or annual income thereof unto the churchwardens for the time being of the parish of Mayfield to be distributed the Monday before Christmas Day to such deserving poor persons of the parish as the said churchwardens shall think fit.

Hugh Luck in 1680 left the sum of £1 per annum, arising from land, to be applied to the poor of Mousehall quarter not in receipt of parish relief.

In order to make clear the meaning of the further extracts from the accounts of the churchwardens and overseers, it seems necessary to explain, in as few words as possible, somewhat of the working of the old poor-laws.

Voluntary offerings had gradually given place to a regular system of taxation; and the civil importance of the poor-law parishes may be dated from statutes of 39 and 43 Elizabeth, which directed overseers to be appointed in every parish, and churchwardens to be *ex-officio* overseers. The various provisions of these two statutes laid the foundations of a system upon which England dealt with her poor for 230 years. The punishments meted to the idle or incorrigible were of the most severe order, while the industrious poor were given relief and shelter. It can easily be seen how great a power was vested in the overseers, and how much depended on their honesty and sense of justice. It was to the interest of each separate parish to guard its frontier, to keep a strict look-out lest neighbouring parishes should burden it with the maintenance of paupers not belonging to the place. This led to a series of Acts which virtually imprisoned the labourer in his own parish. The place of a man's nativity being

originally the parish from which he could claim assistance, it became the object of every parish to prevent any being born in its limits who might come on the rates. Justices of the Peace, upon complaint of the parish officers, could, within forty days of a new-comer settling in a place in any tenement under the yearly value of £10, by a warrant remove such person to the parish where he was last legally settled, unless he could produce such security as would be deemed sufficient proof of his independence of parish aid. A man was allowed to go out of his parish for harvest or other special work, only if he were provided with a certificate from his minister and one of the parish officers, declaring himself and family to be inhabitants of such place. If he did not return when his work was finished, or if he fell ill, it was not counted a "settlement," and he was therefore removable, and if he refused to be removed, was liable to punishment at the house of correction as a vagabond. Any woman, wandering or begging, who gave birth to a child in a parish to which she did not belong, could be whipped, and sent for six months' imprisonment.

Thus poor people who had wandered from their own locality were regarded as aliens, were treated as outcasts, were often removed from places where they could earn a living, that they might be literally imprisoned in a place where there was no work for them; and thus stood the law of settlement, until by the Act of 35 Geo. III. an English labourer could remain where he chose, so long as he was solvent.

An Act was passed in 3 Charles I., which continued and enlarged former acts, for binding children apprentices by the overseers. The settlement laws led to many evils in connection with these apprentices, as it was to the interest of the overseers to bind the children anywhere outside their own parish, without sufficient inquiry as to the master's character, the object being to get them off their parish, as a residence of three years constituted settlement. Marriages also were frequently made up by overseers to throw the charge upon another parish—that of the man.

The situation is summed up in a history of the poor laws published in 1764. The author says :—

"The office of an Overseer of the poor seems to be understood to be this: to keep an extraordinary look-out to prevent persons coming to inhabit without certificates, and to fly to the Justices to remove them; and, if a man brings a certificate, then to caution the inhabitants not to let him a farm of £10 a year, and take care to keep him out of all Parish offices; to warn them, if they will hire servants, to hire them half-yearly,

or by the month, or by the week, or the day, rather than by any way that shall give them a settlement; to bind out poor children apprentices, no matter to whom, or to what trade, but to take special care that the master live in another Parish; to drive out as many inhabitants, and admit as few as they possibly can, that is, to depopulate the Parish in order to lessen the poor's rate; or, if a poor man with a large family appears to be industrious, they will charitably assist him in taking a farm in some neighbouring Parish, and give him £10 to pay his first year's rent with."

The following return for the upper division of the Rape of Pevensey in the year 1630 will show the condition of affairs in these parts at that time :—

"The certificate of Sir Henry Compton, Knight, of the Bath, Sir Thomas Pelham, Baronett, Sir Richard Michelbourne, Knight, Robert Morley and Anthony Fowle, Esqrs., of their proceedings in the persuite of the orders and directions given by the King's Majestie to the Justices of the Peace.

"We have in our division, being the wildish parte of the Rape of Pevensey, before the publishinge of the King's Majestie's orders and ever since kept our monthlie meetinge att Uckfielde, viz. the first Tuesday of every month, where wee have given the overseers in charge to make provission for the poore more plentifully, which in most places have been performed. And for as much as uppon our Inquiry of the Store of Corne within our division we could not finde sufficiente by a greate quantity to suffice the same, wee therefore dealt with the most substantiall inhabitants of those parishes where the poore did most abound, to afforde some liberall helpe to theire poore people, who, partly by the persuasions of us and of theire ministers and of theire owne charytable dispositions, have laid downe in some one parish about 30 pounds, in another 20 pounds, some lesse, accordinge to the extent and abilitie of those parishes, and above theire assessments have appoynted badgers to buy corne and to sell it to the poore twelve pence in everye bushell better cheape than itt did cost untill the somes of money soe given weare run out, which being done accordingly hath yeelded great reliefe to the poore, and wee hope will hould out in that measure till harvest. Apprentices have been putt out these three months to the number of 30^{tie} or thereabouts. As for worcke for the poore, our parte of the countrey affordeth great plenty of its owne nature by reason of our vicinity to the clothiers of Kent, who sett one worcke the weemen and children, and by reason of our Iron worckes which yeelde imployments for the stronger bodies.

"Ale houses licensed wee have suppressed in our devision to the nomber of 16^{teene}, oure devision contayninge about 18^{teene} parishes.

"We have levyed the penalties upon divers unlicensed alehouses, and transferred the forfaytures to the use of the poore; the like wee have done to many haunters of alehouses. Vagabonds and rogues have beene

by the constables well looked into that wee think the contrie hath noe excuse to complayne of theire nomber, and some have beene punished for harbouringe of them.

"And for high waies, the time beinge now for the amendment of them, wee purpose to take fitting care for the same.

"HENRY COMPTON.
"ANTH. FOWLE."

Some of the neighbouring parishes evidently were in the clutches of sterner guardians, for the same report for Hastings announces :—

"We have placed out apprentices in the severall parishes of Battell, Burwashe, Hooe, and Heathfeild within this division thirtie apprentices of poore children within the sd. parishes, and there hath bin within the space of fowre months now last passed whipped as common roges and wanderinge persons twentie and seaven persons who have alsoe accordinge to the lawe beene sent to the places of their bearth where it can be knowne, and where that cannot be knowne to the places of their last aboade. Wee have also sent others to the house of correction in this division where severall persons now are, and the sd. house is insufficiently provided with materielle for settinge them and others as shall be sent there to worcke. Of all which wee thought it our part to certifie to you to whome wee commend our kinde loves and reste

"Yo^{r} lo^{s} friends

"THOMAS SACKVILLE
"ROBERT FOSTER
"WILLIAM WHITE.

"To our very lo friende Robert Morley Esq^{re}, High Sheriffe of the County of Sussex."

Some seventy years after the Elizabethan poor law had been in operation, the rates had risen to no less a sum than £840,000 a year, and by the time of Queen Anne the maintenance of the poor cost over a million sterling. The rapid growth of pauperism continued, and in 1795 Mr. Fox told the House of Commons that "the greater part of the working classes of the country were lying on the mercy and almost lay on the charity of the rich." By the end of the war, pauperism may be said to have increased fifty per cent., and there were very few of the labouring classes out of its grasp.

In 1723 the workhouse system was tried. These houses were subsequently termed "Houses of Industry." Spinning yarn and tow was the chief employment of the inmates; the tow thus spun was either sent out to the weavers, of whom there were plenty in most villages, or looms were worked in the house itself. By an Act 9 Geo. I. it

was declared that relief should only be given on condition of entering the workhouse, but this was repealed.

Then followed the Act 33 Geo. III.—a disastrous piece of legislation. The making up out of the rates the deficiency of a labourer's income came to be the general practice, and the amount a labourer ought to have was fixed from time to time by the price of the quartern loaf, which might vary from 6*d.* to nearly 2*s.* (The highest price reached was 1*s.* 11*d.* in 1779.) By this plan every man had a right to an adequate maintenance, were he idle or industrious, honest or dishonest, and in proportion to the number of his family.

When the Parliamentary Commission of 1833 inquired into the effect of this system, they were horrified and dismayed. The poor rates cost the nation annually between six and seven millions sterling. In some parts of the country nearly all the labourers received parish relief, and the idle were the best off. The employers gave low wages, knowing the deficiency would be made up by the parish.

In their Report for the Uckfield division the Commissioners say that the labourers were required to work a part of each day, so as to earn the sum considered necessary for their subsistence, a sum which, in accordance with the magistrates' scale of the Uckfield Bench, appeared to be, for a single man, 4*s.*; man and wife, 7*s.*; man, wife, and one child, 8*s.* 6*d.*; with two children, 10*s.*; and for each child above two, the value of a gallon of flour.

Industrious and self-respecting men suffered many hardships when wages were low and the prices of provisions were high.

Before the Parliamentary Commission of 1833, the greatest discontent prevailed, which in many places culminated in riots. In Mayfield it was rumoured that Mr. Day intended to interfere to reduce the rates; it was immediately suspected by the paupers that he was opposed to their interest, and, on his attending the vestry meeting, he found affixed to the door a notice that "they intended washing their hands in his blood."

In the winter of 1831–2 many labourers in this and neighbouring parishes were out of work; various causes fomented ill feeling between employers and employed, until at last a few ringleaders collected at Mayfield and marched to Rotherfield, their ranks swelling by the way. They surrounded various houses, demanding of their employers an increase of wages. Amongst others, they came to Mayfield Vicarage. The vicar, the Rev. John Kirby, went outside to speak to them and try to persuade them to go home quietly; rain was falling at the time, and one of the rioters, who had an umbrella,

stepped forward, and held it open over the vicar's head while he made his speech.

When some of them were afterwards on their trial at Lewes, Mr. Kirby went to intercede for them, and, mentioning this little incident to prove no serious mischief was thought of, obtained a more lenient sentence for them than would otherwise have been the case.

The "riot" wound up at Crowborough, where Mr. Howis, then the principal employer of labour there, listened to their grievances, promised to consider the matter, gave them something to eat and drink, and induced them to disperse.

CHAPTER IX.

THE earliest papers in the church chest are tied in bundles, and contain between eighty and ninety indentures or bonds of parish apprentices, made between the churchwardens and overseers of the one part, and employers of labour of the other part, with the assent of the Justices of the Peace. They extend from 1612 to 1664, with one of 1696. The boys are apprenticed by statute to the age of twenty-four; the girls to the age of twenty-one, or, in some instances, till they marry. The churchwardens and overseers sometimes pay premiums to the persons taking the children. The highest sum appears to be £11 (in 1656); the lowest sixteen shillings.

A number dated from the "7th yeare of the reigne of our Soveraigne Lord Charles" are signed by Thomas Pelham and Anthony Fowle; the names too of Thomas May, the historian of the Long Parliament, and Mr. Maynard, the Puritan vicar, appear on some of the documents.

A copy of one of these indentures in full will suffice, with a list and a few details of the others. (b.a. stands for bound apprentice.)

This Indenture, made the first day of June, in the yeere of the raigne of our Soveraigne Lord James, by the grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., the one and twentieth, and of Scotland ye lvi.th; Betweene Alexander Eliot and John Relfe, the elder, Churchwardens of the parish of Maighfield, in the Countie of Sussex, Thomas Packhame, John Stevens, and Simon Wilmshurst, overseers of the poore of the said parish, on the one parte, and Edward Besbech, of the same Maighfield, husbandman, on the other parte, witnesseth that the said Churchwardens and overseers of the poore, of one mutuall assent and consent, and by and with the consent of two such Justices of the Peace as the Law in this case doth require, doe by these presents bynde William Ligh, sonne of Edward Ligh, late of Maighfield aforsaid, deceased, unto the said Edward Besbech, and after the manner of an apprentice with him to remaine, abide and dwell from and after the day of the date of these presents, until he shall attain the full age of fower and twentie yeeres. During all which terme the said William

Ligh, an apprentice unto and with the said Edward Besbech, as his maister, well truly and faithfully shall serve, and from the service of the said maister neither by day nor by night shall be absent or prolong himselfe, except it be with lawfull licence from his said maister, but in all things as it doth become a just, true, faithfull and diligent servant, shall he order, demean and behave himselfe towards his said maister, as well in words as in deedes. And hee, the said Edward Besbech, the said William Ligh, his servant, all that trade, misterie, arte, or science of Husbandrie which hee now useth, shall instruct teach and informe or cause to be taught instructed and informed therein, as much as thereunto in any wise appertaineth. And in due and reasonable manner to correct and chastise him, and to finde and allowe unto him sufficient meate, drinke, lodginge, rayment, lynnen, woollen hose, shoes, and all other things els fitt, necessary and convenient to an apprentice of such condition, as well in sickness as in health. Allso the sayd Edward Besbech shall and will give unto the sayd William Ligh, his servant (during the said terme of his service), every quarter of a yeere, two pence of lawfull money of England, and at the end of his said time or yeeres of service the said Edward Besbech shall give unto him, the said William, two decent and sufficient suites of apparrell, one for the holidayes, and the other for the working dayes. And furthermore, the said Edward Besbech, for him, his executors and assignes doth covenant, promise and grannt to and with the above named Churchwardens and overseers for the poor, and their successors and every of them by these presents, that hee, the sayd Edward Besbech, his executors, administrators and assignes, shall and will, during the tyme of yeeres above specified, discharge the said parrish of Maighfield of the said William Ligh, and of and from all or any further cost and charges which may come unto the said parrish by the said William. In consideration whereof the said Edward Besbech doth receive of the said Churchwardens and overseers three poundes and five shillings, of lawfull mony of England. In witness whereof the parties above said, to these present Indentures interchangeable their handes and seales have sett, the day and yeere above wrytten, 1623.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us:—
JOHN LUCK.
WILLIAM PECKHAM.
THOMAS MODELL.
EDWARD BESBECH. Seal.

We do assent hereunto:—
R. AMHERST
ROBERT MORLEY.

15 Nov., 1612. Edward Hygate b.a. to Henry Marten, haberdasher. £2 and a "suite of apparell" as *premium*.
8 Apr., 1614. Elizabeth Marshall, b.a. to William Moone, yeoman.
20 Apr., 1614. William Marshall, b.a. to William Relfe, yeoman.
2 Oct., 1614. Richard Skynner, b.a. to Thomas Booreman, yeoman. £1 10*s.* *premium*.
26 Mar., 1615. Anne Duke, b.a. to John Emery, "milner."

28 July, 1615. Elizabeth Collyn, *alias* Laugham, b.a. to John Dopp, husbandman. £1 *premium.*

8 Jan., 1615(6). Thomas Greene Leave, bastard son of Agnes Greene Leave, b.a. to Richard Morchaunt, yeoman. £5 *premium.*

28 May, 1616. John Wenboorne, b.a. to Solomon Wenboorne, blacksmith.

9 June, 1616. Lynus Bolte, bastard son of Beatrice Bolte, b.a. to William Maynard, yeoman. £1 *premium.*

20 July, 1616. Joan Turner, b.a. to Caleb Kinge of Buxted, weaver. £1 10*s.* *premium.*

2 Aug., 1617. Anne Mannser, b.a. to Richard Stevens, weaver. £4 *premium.*

21 March, 1617(8). Elizabeth Harrice, b.a. to John Carpenter, miller. £1 *premium.*

28 June, 1618. Joan Harrice, b.a. to Anthony Marchaunte, husbandman. £4 *premium.*

6 June, 1619. William Collen, *alias* Laffam, b.a. to Richard Wilmishurst, tanner. £1 13*s.* 4*d.* *premium.*

25 Feb., 1619(20). James Barden, *alias* Moone, b.a. to Benjamyn Furninger, of Wadhurst, husbandman. £6 *premium.*

13 Aug., 1620. Joan Wenborne, b.a. to Solomon Wenborne, blacksmith. £1 *premium.*

27 Aug., 1620. Thomas Payne, b.a. to Timothy Pettit of Heathfield "Chirurgeon." £6 13*s.* 4*d.* *premium.*

8 Sept., 1620. Richard Stone, *alias* Maunser, bastard son of Joan Maunser, b.a. to Richard Daniell, collier. £3 10*s.* *premium.*

20 May, 1621. Richard Marshall, b.a. to William Holland, husbandman, and to John Holland, his son. £4 premium.

1 Sept., 1622. William Barham to Thomas Emery, miller. 16 shillings *premium.*

1 June, 1623. William Ligh, b.a. to Edward Besbech, husbandman. £3 5*s.* *premium.* The apprentice to receive pay of 2*d.* a quarter.

12 June, 1624. Richard Barton, b.a. to Richard Pococke, shoemaker. £4 *premium.*

10 April, 1625. Richard Wells, b.a. to William Wells, husbandman. 16 shillings *premium.*

23 Nov., 1625. James Lawrance, *alias* Kent, bastard son of Johane Lawrance, b.a. to James James, of Maunser, yeoman. £4 10*s.* *premium.*

20 Apr., 1626. Agnes Melwerd, b.a. to Thomas Morgan, husbandman. £2 *premium.*

20 Apr., 1626. Robert Levet, b.a. to John Stevenson, shoemaker. £4 10*s.* premium.

30 June, 1626. William Melward, b.a. to Josias Brick, yeoman. £3 10*s.* *premium.*

30 June, 1626. John Stevenson, b.a. to Samuel Relfe, yeoman. £2 10*s.* *premium.*

24 Feb. 1626(7). Thomas Soale, b.a. to William Fuller of Langton, collier, for eight years. £2 *premium.*

20 Oct., 1627. Richard Davyes, b.a. to Abraham Lucker of Buxted, husbandman. £2 *premium.*

1 Aug., 1628. John Spickornell, b.a. to Sallomon Wenboorne, blacksmith. £5 *premium.*

18 Mar., 1629. Richard Stevenson, b.a. to John Stevenson, shoemaker. £6 *premium.*

8 Jan., 1629 (30). John Melwerd, b.a. to Thomas Morgan, husbandman. £5 15*s.* *premium.*

6 Apr., 1631. Mary Peckham, b.a. to Lewes Mepham, husbandman.

21 Sept., 1631. Dorothy Sole, b.a. to William Fuller of Heathfield, collier.

23 Dec., 1631. Jorden Andrews, b.a. to Thomas Pyper, yeoman.

16 Apr., 1633. Thomas Whapham, b.a. to John Pellyn, of Horsted Canes, husbandman.

22 Apr., 1633. Henry Barthemewe, b.a. to James Kerrey, of Barcombe, collier.

30 Apr., 1633. John Lambert, b.a. to Matthew Kellet of Water Lambeth, co. Surrey, blacksmith. £5 *premium.*

7 May, 1633. Robert Collins, b.a. to Richard Maynard, husbandman.

15 June, 1633. William Billings, b.a. to William Milborne, junior, gentleman.

15 June, 1633. Thomas Bristoe, aged 14, b.a. to Thomas Daye, yeoman.

15 June, 1633. Thomas Busse, aged 14, b.a. to Thomas Jenner, yeoman.

15 June, 1633. John Duke, aged 15, b.a. to Thomas Sawyer, yeoman.

15 June, 1633. Robert Judd, aged 12, b.a. to Thomas Bodle, yeoman.

15 June, 1633. Anne Taylor, aged 17, b.a. to Ralfe Pope, husbandman.

15 June, 1633. John Taylor, aged 15, b.a. to Henry Hesman, yeoman.

15 June, 1633. Nicholas Taylor, aged 15, b.a. to Alexander Ellyot, yeoman.

8 Mar., 1634. James Brooke, aged 14, b.a. to Robert Rellfe, husbandman.

8 Mar., 1634. Elizabeth Foster, 12 years old, b.a. to Thomas Ellis, yeoman.

8 Mar., 1634. Henry Foster, aged 11, b.a. to John Baker.

8 Mar., 1634. Abraham Martine, of 9 years, to Abraham Edwardes, gentleman.

8 Mar., 1634. Mary Morris, aged 14, b.a. to Thomas Diploc (who signs his name Duplack), husbandman.

8 Mar., 1634. Richard Tullie, aged 10, b.a. to Thomas Loughton, gentleman.

8 Mar., 1634. Elizabeth Turnes, aged 14, b.a. to Thomas Anscombe, Esquire.

7 Mar., 1636(7). Elizabeth Peckham, of 12 years, b.a. to Ralph Poope, yeoman.

30 Oct., 1637. Richard Fullye, b.a. to Solomon Wenborne, blacksmith.

20 Feb., 1642(3). Nicholas Wood, b.a. to Thomas Bodle, yeoman.

27 Dec., 1643. Thomas Beeny, bastard, b.a. to Bartholomew Fuller, of Hawkhurst, broadweaver. £5 *premium.*

20 July, 1644. Elizabeth Duke, b.a. to Robert Stephens, of Battle, husbandman.

The churchwardens pay £3, which are to be restored by Stephens if she dies within a year, the churchwardens allowing a shilling a week so long as she may have lived in that year. Elizabeth binds herself not to do wrong, and not to contract herself to any man. She will not play at dice, cards, or other unlawful games, nor frequent taverns, etc.

7 April, 1646. Joane Waggorne, b.a. to John Stevenson, carrier, and Ellen his wife. £6 *premium.*

8 Apr., 1648. Edward Bristowe, b.a. to Thomas Furminger, of Breade, husbandman.

5 Aug., 1648. Margaret Haynes, b.a. to Nicholas Brooksted, of Tunbridge, blacksmith.

6 May, 1650. Robert Duke, aged 13, b.a. to Nicholas Collins, turner. £4 *premium.*

6 May, 1650. Robert Gulbeam, aged 13, b.a. to John Newnham, yeoman.

6 May, 1650. William Hayselden, aged 15, b.a. to Samuel Jeames, yeoman.

6 May, 1650. Thomas Page, aged 10, b.a. to Thomas and Richard Day, yeomen.

6 May, 1650. John Peerce, aged 12, b.a. to John Sawyer, yeoman.

6 May 1650. John Wennum, aged 11, b.a. to Thomas Piper, yeoman.

6 May, 1650. Richard Yorke, 16 years, b.a. to William Moone, husbandman.

11 May, 1650. Solloman Judes, son of George Judes, *alias* Powell, 15 years old, b.a. to Robert Relfe, yeoman.

20 June, 1654. Ann Turnis, "a poore child of the age of eleven yeares or thereabouts" b.a. to French Fuller, gentleman.

24 June, 1654. Dorothy Mills, b.a. to John Relfe, yeoman.

24 June, 1654. Thomas Mills, aged 12, b.a. to Alexander Eliot junior, yeoman.

24 June, 1654. Nicholas Pierce, aged 12, b.a. to John Maynard, clerk.

24 June, 1654. William Stevenson, b.a. to John Edwards, gentleman.

24 June, 1654. Edward Wenham, aged 10, b.a. to Anne Devall, widow.

24 June, 1654. Thomas Wenham, aged 12, b.a. to Robert Drinker, yeoman.

24 June, 1654. Robert Woodgale, "a poore childe of the age of eighteene yeeres or therabouts," b.a. to Nathaniell Studley, Esquire.

19 May, 1655. Thomas Hanas, aged 10, b.a. to Thomas Wisborne, of Buxstead, miller.

26 Sept., 1655. William Lerkines, aged 15, b.a. to Thomas Kerwin, yeoman.

26 Sept., 1655. Abraham Woodgate, an orphan aged 14, b.a. to Thomas Sands.

22 Feb., 1655(6). Gye Parris, aged 11, b.a. to William Pococke, shoemaker. £11 *premium.*

16 Apr., 1656. Elizabeth Hawkings, aged 15, b.a. to Ann Devall, widow, and Robert Devall, yeoman.

28 June, 1656. Nathaniell Barrett, aged 12, b.a. to Thomas Overy, of Goudhurst, broadweaver. £5 10*s.* *premium.*

26 July, 1656. George Hawkens, "a poore child of the age of twelve yeeres or thereabouts" b.a. to James Reade, weaver. £7 *premium.* To be brought up as a "linnen and wollen weaver."

20 Sept., 1656. Margaret Hawkens, aged 9, b.a. to George Ongeley, fineryman (refiner). £8 *premium.*

20 Sept., 1656. Sarah Larkines, aged 11, b.a. to William and Nicholas Marten, yeoman. £4 *premium.*

27 Mar., 1658. William Marshall, "a poore child of the age of fifteen yeeres or therabouts" b.a. to Thomas Overy of Gondhurst, broadweaver.

19 May, 1659. William Judes, aged 15, b.a. to William Adames, of Rotherfield, shoemaker. £6 *premium.*

19 May, 1659. Mary Richardson, aged 14, b.a. to William Hills, of Goodhurst, broadweaver.

16 Oct., 1660. Edward Pocooke, b.a. to Richard Esland, of Rotham in Kent, crocker.

7 Aug., 1663. Nosley Milles, aged 17, b.a. to Thomas Parris "cord-winder." £5 10*s.* *premium.*

7 Apr., 1664. Elliner Danice, "a poore child aged 12," b.a. to Nicholas Wood, husbandman.

18 Apr., 1696. John Bunce, b.a. to John Johnson, of East Hodely, husbandman. Not to frequent taverns, inns, or alehouses, nor to play at cards, dice, or other unlawful games.

There are no orders or certificates of settlements earlier than the year 1700. Most of these are filled in on regular printed forms, others, however, are written throughout, of which we take the following specimens.

"We Daniel Paramore and Nathaniel Jordan, Churchwardens and overseers of the Poor of ye Parish of Newington in ye county of Kent do own and acknowledge Benjamin Baker and Dorothy his wife to be inhabitants legally settled in ye parish of Newington in ye county of Kent aforesaid. In witness whereof we have hereunto sett our hands and seals ye 29th day of March in the 12th year of ye reign of our Sovereign Lord Wm. ye third by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland, King Defender of ye faith etc . . . Anno Dom. 1700."

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Mayfield in ye county of Sussex, or to either of them.

"Whereas it appeareth unto us whose hands and seals are hereunto set, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Sussex (*quorum unus*), upon the complaint of you the Churchwardens and overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield in the said County, That John Hemsley hath lately come into the said Parish endeavouring to settle himself there without giving notice in writing to you the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any of you, of the house of his abode in the said Parish, or hiring a tenement there of Ten Pounds per annum, and without having gained any other legal settlement in the said Parish, according to the statutes in that case made and provided, and that the said John Hemsley is likely to become chargeable to the said Parish; And whereas it appeareth unto us the said Justices upon examination on oath of the said John Hemsley that his last legal settlement was in Rotherfield in the County of Sussex; We therefore, the said Justices, do adjudge that the said John Hemsley is likely to become chargeable to the said Parish of Mayfield, and that the said Parish of Rotherfield is the place of the last settlement of the said John Hemsley. These are therefore in His Majesty's name strictly to charge and command you the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield aforesaid and every of you forthwith upon sight hereof to remove and convey the said John Hemsley from the said Parish of Mayfield, the said Parish of Rotherfield being the place of his last legal settlement, and there deliver him unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the same Parish, who are hereby required to receive him and provide for him according to law. Hereof fail not at your perils.

"Given under our hands and seals the 1st day of April in the Twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George, by the grace of God king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Anno Dom. 1726.

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Rotherfield aforesaid and to every one of them.

"Humphrey Fowle ○ Seal.
"John Newnham." ○ Seal.

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex to execute

"And to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Betchworth in the County of Surrey to receive and observe.

"Whereas complaint is made unto us (two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Sussex) by you the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Mayfield, that Henry Freeman is resident in your said Parish of Mayfield by virtue of a

certificate under the hands and seals of Thomas Arnold, Robert Skilton, William Cock, and George Bird, who were Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Betchworth in the County of Surrey in the year 1735, which certificate is attested by two sworn witnesses, and allowed by two Justices of the Peace; And the said Henry Freeman is become chargeable to the said Parish of Mayfield, which certificate is examined by us; Therefore we do adjudge he was legally settled in the said Parish of Betchworth. These are therefore to require you, the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Mayfield, or some one of you, forthwith to convey the said Henry Freeman to the Parish of Betchworth aforesaid, and deliver him to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor thereof, or some or one of them (together with this Order or a true copy hereof), who are hereby required to receive him and to provide for him at their discretion as the law in that case directs. Of which you are not to fail under the penalty of Five Pounds. Given under our hands and seals this Eleventh day of June, 1754.

"Geo. Courthope ○ Seal.
"E. Stapley." ○ Seal.

"Memorandum:—Delivered the within-named Henry Freeman with a true copy of this Order to of the Parish of Betchworth, the 14th day of June, 1784, by me. Charges allowed by Justice Moreton:

	s.	d.
For reliefe	6	4
For the Order	2	6
Expenses to Uckfield	6	0
Horse for Freeman	4	0
Expenses on ye road	4	0
	£1	3	4"

"Sussex to Wit. At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Lord the King, held at Lewes in and for the same County on Thursday the fourth day of Aprill in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord 1754, before Elfred Staples, Esq., William Poole and George Courthope, Esqrs., Justices of our Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace in the said County, and also to hear and determine divers felonies, trespasses, and other ill deeds done and committed in the said County.

"Upon the appeal of the Parishioners of the Parish of Buxted in the County of Sussex from an Order or Warrant of George Courthope and John Bridger, Esqrs., two of His Majestie's Justices of the Peace of the County of Sussex, for removing of Thomas Batchelour and Elizabeth, his wife, from the Parish of Mayfield in the said County to the said Parish

of Buxted. And upon hearing of Council on both sides, it is ordered by the Court that the said Order or Warrant of the said two Justices of the Peace be confirmed and by this Court it is confirmed accordingly.

By the Court,

Ex by Robert Searle, Clerk of the Peace of Sussex."

"Sussex to wit. We, Nicholas Fowle and George Egles, Jeremiah Heathfield, and Thomas Pack, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Wadhurst, County of Sussex aforesaid, do hereby own and acknowledge Samuel Funnell, wife and children, William and Elizabeth, the boy about 13 years old, the girl about nine years old, to be inhabitants legally settled in the Parish of Wadhurst in the County of Sussex aforesaid. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this thirtieth day of May, 1739, in the Twelfth year of our Sovereign Lord George the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith.

"Attested by John Newington, Nicholas Barham, Thomas Pack, Jeremiah Heathfield, his mark."

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex, or to any or either of them.

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Sussex aforesaid, do allow of the above written certificate. And we do also certify that John Newington, one of the witnesses that attested the execution of the said certificate, hath made oath before us that he did see the Churchwardens and Overseers whose names and seals are to the said certificate subscribed and set, severally sign and seal the said certificate, and that the name of the said John Newington and Nicholas Barham, whose names are above subscribed as Witnesses to the Execution of the said Certificate, are of their own proper hand-writing. Dated this 30th day of May, in the year 1729.

G. Courthope,
Humphrey Fowle."

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex.

"Gentlemen,—We, Robert Dadswell, Thomas Izzard, Luke Minns, William Moon, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Rotherfield in Sussex, do hereby acknowledge Thomas Holmwood and Mary his wife, and Ainsley, their daughter, now residing and living in your said Parish of Mayfield, to be our inhabitants legally settled and

belonging to our said Parish of Rotherfield. As witness our hand this 9th day of April, 1780.

ROBERT DADSWELL, WILLIAM MOON } Churchwardens.
The mark of X THOMAS IZZARD, The mark of X LUKE MINNS } Overseers.

Witness hereto, THOMAS MUGRIDGE."

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Mayfield.

"That we acknowledge George Monk to belong to our Parish of Eastling, in the County of Kent, and if the saide George Monk shall fall sick or lame and not be able to maintaine his family, we do require a notice of souch complainte before relieved, that we may give an order or fetch them home without any expense to the Parish of Mayfield. Witness hearof we do hearunto sit our hands this Fifteenth day of March in the yeare of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Three.

BENJAMIN MURTON, Churchwarden.
EDMUND ELVY, JOHN LUSEY } Overseers."

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex and to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Ticehurst in the County of Sussex aforesaid.

"Sussex to Wit. Whereas complaint has been made unto us whose Names are hereunto set and Seals affixed, being two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Sussex aforesaid (one whereof being of the Quorum), by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Mayfield:

"That William Rich and Deborah his wife and their son who is not yet Baptized lately intruded and came into the Parish of Mayfield aforesaid and are actually become chargeable to the same. We the said Justices, upon due proof made thereof as well upon the examination of the said William Rich upon Oath as other circumstances, do adjudge the Place of the Legal Settlement of the said William Rich and Deborah his wife and their said son to be in the Parish of Ticehurst aforesaid in the County of Sussex aforesaid.

"These are therefore in his Majesty's name to require you, the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Mayfield, on sight hereof to remove and convey the said William Rich and Deborah his wife and their said Son from and out of your said Parish of Mayfield to the said Parish of Ticehurst, and them deliver unto the Churchwardens

and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our Order or a true copy thereof, who are hereby required to receive and provide for them according to Law.

"Given under our Hands and Seals at Ticehurst aforesaid, the Nineteenth Day of November, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Five.

GEO. COURTHOPE, ○ Seal
W. CONSTABLE, ○ Seal."

"Sussex to Wit. Whereas it appears unto us George Courthope and Wm. Constable Esquires, the justices within mentioned, that the within named Deborah Rich is at present unable to travel by reason of sickness and great infirmity of Body: We the said Justices do therefore in Pursuance of the Statute in that Behalf made and provided, hereby suspend the Execution of the within-written Order of Removal; and you the C~s and O~s of the Poor of the Parish of Mayfield are hereby commanded to desist from conveying the within named D~ R. from and out of your said Parish of Mayfield until you shall make it appear unto us the said Justices that the said Deborah Rich hath recovered from her said illness and may without danger be conveyed from the said Parish of Mayfield to the said Parish of Ticehurst as within directed.

"Given under our hands this nineteenth Day of November 1805.

GEO. COURTHOPE.
W. CONSTABLE."

"Whereas it duly appears unto us George Courthope and W. Constable Esquires, the above and within named Justices that the above named D~ R. is wholly recovered from the sickness and Infirmity of Body under which she lately laboured and that she may therefore be conveyed from the within mentioned Parish of Ticehurst without danger, These are therefore to authorize and require you the C~s and O~s of the Poor of the said Parish of Mayfield forthwith to convey the said Deborah Rich from and out of your said Parish of Mayfield to the said Parish of Ticehurst, and her to deliver to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor there as you are within directed to do.

"Given under our Hands this Seventeenth Day of December 1805.

G~ C.
W~ C."

"Whereas it hath been proved on Oath before us Justices, whose names are hereunto subscribed and set and signed the within written Order for Removal, that the charges incurred by the suspension of the said Order of Removal amount to the sum of Two pounds and seventeen

shillings, and which charges appear to us to be fair and reasonable: Now the said Justices do, in Pursuance of the Statute in that case made, hereby order and direct the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Ticehurst in the County of Sussex aforesaid, to which the within named Pauper is to be removed, to pay the said charge to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, or to such of them as shall demand the same.

"Witness our hands and seal this seventeenth day of December, 1805.

GEO. COURTHOPE ○
W. CONSTABLE." ○

There are also papers concerning the boarding out of paupers. Thus—

10th Sept., 1642.—Stephen Cackott, of Gowdhurst, Broadweaver, in consideration of the sum of twenty shillings paid in hand, agrees to take and convey unto his dwelling house at Gowdhurst Edward Marchant of Mayfield, Husbandman, and Judith his wife, and keep and maintain them during their lives. The Overseers of the Poor of Mayfield undertake to pay him £9 yearly, during the joint lives of the couple, and £4 10*s.* during the life of the survivor.

23 Jan., 1661 (2).—John and William Briggman, husbandmen, agree to take the bastard child of Dorothy Christmas until the age of fourteen.

April 14, 1726.—John Briant agrees with the officers of the poor to keep old Clifton's daughter for ten shillings a quarter. "Ye Parrish to find her in wearing aparill." May, 1726. He agrees to keep James Peirce for £4 per annum, the parish to find all clothes.

Richard Luck agrees to keep the "traveller's chile" for five years, and find it in all clothing for £4 yearly; 9*d.* is paid for "leading strings for the traveller's chile"; but soon afterwards we find "Rev. Mr. Letherbarrow's charges for reading ye burial for ye traveler's chile, 1*s.*" "The traveler's chile's coffin, and laying forth, and finding where she was baptized, 5*s.*"

A "dumb maid" falls on the parish, and Solomon Parris charges 1*s.* "for moveing of the Dumb maid's goods." Mr. Leatherbarrow receives 1*s.* for reading the burial service; her grave costs 2*s.* 6*d.*; and "17*d.* and ¾ of wool for ye dumb maid" costs 7*d.*, this being one of the few notices in the parish accounts of the curious Act called an Act for burying in woollen, which was passed in 1679, in order to help the woollen trade. The final entry is "pd. for beere for the people caring of the Dumb maid to church 2*s.*"

Exact dates are not given, but her goods were carried from her home in March, and the last entries for her funeral are in May.

The doctors' bills are curiosities—

Dr. Heasman's account for Thomas Smileman runs as follows :—

"For letting him blood in his head 2*s*.
"For plaisters for his stummick 1*s*.
"For strong spirits 1*s*.
"For an electuary for his inward feaver 5*s*. 6*d*.
"For mixture for him 2*s*."

He was allowed for Thos. Trueman's boy "that broak his thye, and putt his nee out of place" £2 2*s*.

Another entry is, "Pd. Dr. Heasman for ye cure of Widow Barden's daughter of her eyes, £1."

There are constant records showing how great a scourge was the dreaded small-pox before the introduction of vaccination in 1799.

Under 1730 comes the entry "Paid the House for several people when the small-pox was at Ellis, 10*s*. 6*d*." In 1757—"To Freeman on account of the small-pox, 16*s*. 8*d*. : to Ann Constable for charge of the small-pox, 10*s*." In 1764, "Won bead, 2 peair of sheets, won blanket, won peair of bellewes, won worming pan that went to the smolpoks." "Rent for the Pest House, £1 10*s*."

The first notices of a great outbreak are under April, 1772 : "Wood and bread for the people with the small-pox, 14*s*. 6*d*.; to Mary Lewer, for nursing the small-pox people, £3 11*s*.; to William Weston for tobacco, 3*s*. 5*d*." (This was evidently used for fumigation, as a great deal is bought during this time, but at no other.) "To Mr. Challice (the Vicar) and Mr. Young on a count of small-pox, 10*s*.; To Mr. Wood for carring of small-pox people, 6*s*." (Whether this modest sum was really his only charge for carrying the 23 people, so often afterwards mentioned, from the Workhouse to the Pest House, cannot now be proved.) "To Wm. Peirce for keeping 21 poor people at 2*s*. 6*d*. and 2 more at 3*s*. 6*d*., £11 18*s*.; from 10 July, to 7 August. To Wm. Peirce for 21 poor people from August 7, to September 11, £14 17*s*. 6*d*." Month by month this entry continues until July, 1774, exactly two years. The sickness must have been at its worst in the summer of 1773, when William Pierce had for some months as many as 40 poor people under his charge, at a cost to the parish of from £20 to £25 5*s*. per month. The charge for tobacco was about 4*s*. per month during the whole of this period.

There are other especial items, such as :—"To John Waghorne, for shop goods for the small-pox people, £1 0*s*. 4*d*. ; to Thomas Edward,

for attendance on the small-pox people, 12*s.*; William Fenner, in small-pox, 16*s.*; Thomas Edward, for attendance on the small-pox, £1 19*s.*; Master Oakley, for nursing the small-pox people and airing (disinfecting), £2 7*s.* 6*d.*; to Benjamin Corke, for bread for the small-pox people, 10*s.* 6*d.*; John Ashby, for two bushels of wheat for Medhurst, in small-pox, 14*s.*; Joseph Bassett, for liquor for the small-pox people, 8*s.* 5*d.*; to Edward Avery, for airing of Harry Baker's goods from small-pox, 18*s.*; to Mr. Beney, for what he paid for Medhurst when he had the small-pox, 5*s.* 11*d.*; Dr. Stone's bill by agreement for attending William Fenner, wife and family in the small-pox, £3 3*s.*; for attending Widow Fenner, with ditto, 14*s.* 6*d.*; for attending James Gooden's wife and family, with ditto, £2 19*s.* 3*d.*; paid Wm. Verrel on account of Widow Barker charg with the small-pox, £1 5*s.*" "A knell and a grave, 2*s.* 6*d.*" comes sadly often.*

During the years 1764-7 the Master of the Workhouse was evidently no scholar, as may be seen from the entry about small-pox. Some of his other peculiarities in spelling may be given, such as—"i sak of woats." "Blow lency." On August 2, 1765, "Was Broat hoam a Pease of Shorten." On March 24, "Half nel of linen for the bindens of Bricheses." On March 30, "Ashby's 2 leel boyes 2 per of hose." On July 29, "for the yous of hous 8 yards of lency." On December 23, "Edward Spainkhurst, 1 Pear of hoase." He adds a note that from the 30th March, 1766, to the 19th of April, 1767, "thear wase gin out of the workhouse, lency 252 yds., hoase 60 pear. The lency at 2*s.* and 1 penny the yd. The hoase 10*d.* per pear. One with the other, £27 13*s.* 4*d.*"

It may perhaps interest some people to compare the prices of various articles in the eighteenth century, with those of the present time, though it may be as well to bear in mind that goods supplied in large quantities for the Workhouse would be charged at a cheaper rate:—Beef, from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* the stone; a hog of 35 stone, £3 11*s.* 9*d.*; cheese, 3*d.* per lb., or 30 stone for £2 5*s.*; 25 lbs. of butter, 14*s.* 7*d.*; 4 bushels of pease, 12*s.*; 6 bushels of potatoes, 8*s.* 8*d.*; straw, 13*s.* the load; shoes, 3*s.*, pattens, 1*s.*, clogs, 6*d.*, the pair; making a coat, 2*s.*; making a gown, 1*s.* 6*d.*; making a shirt, 4*d.*; two horses to Rotherfield, 3*s.*; two horses to Tunbridge, 16*s.*; a horse to Lewes, 2*s.* 6*d.*; to John Buss for going to Brighthelmstone (Brighton) 5*s.*; for carrying of Hannah Davis to Horstead, supper, lodging, breakfast and beer, 5*s.* 1*d.*; for a journey to Tice-

* A very old woman, still living, remembers seeing tents set up in the field beyond the churchyard for the small-pox patients during an outbreak.

hurst of two churchwardens, horses and expense there, 6*s.* 6*d.*; horse to ye Sessions, 8*s.*; a day for a horse, 2*s.* 6*d.*

Coal is not mentioned before 1787, and then is very dear: "11 chaldron of cole, £16 8*s.*; 10 chaldron of cole, £14 10*s.* To Samuel Hemsley for carriage of cole, £8 10*s.*" In 1789, in the inventory of workhouse furniture, "three cole baskets" are put down, also "a coal grate" in the kitchen. The first mention of a tea kettle occurs in this list in 1783. Hand towels, too, are something new in 1783. The poor people in the house were called "The Family." They were visited at intervals by a Justice of the Peace under an Act passed in 1790, who wrote in the books such entries as the following:—"Examined the Family, and found all in good order." "Thomas Hazelden, a son of Thomas and Esther Hazelden, being born'd in the house last Sunday, Oct. 28, 1771. Baptized. The rest of the Family remained as before." "Examined the Family. Diana Corke admitted. She came in 11th November, late in the evening. Find also Elizabeth Weston, William Brooker, and Mary Norman absent, and continued at their respective places, and well approv'd of, and will therefore be discontinued for the household list." "Examined the state and condition of the Family, and find everything in good order, peaceable and quietly managed, and the number the same as was on my last inspection."

The workhouse was the building opposite the church, lately renamed "Stone Court," where now are reading rooms and the school of wood-carving. It then had a timber front and a thatched roof. Two loads of straw for re-thatching it cost in 1730 £1 6*s.* Miss Stone, who died a few years ago at the age of 92, could remember the old poorhouse, and the noise of the looms at work there; for spinning and weaving was the principal occupation of the women in the house, during the first quarter of the last century.

At various times during the eighteenth century, a fresh list was made of the furniture and goods in Mayfield Workhouse, from which it would appear that the poor people were made very comfortable. Four beds were the largest number in any room, and they had twelve brass warming-pans to warm them. The names of the rooms were:—work-room, kitchen, bakehouse, brewhouse, cellar, hall chamber, parlour chamber, kitchen chamber, brewhouse chamber, passage chamber, pantry chamber, garret, work garret, parlour chamber garret, and hall chamber garret. The work garret was used for spinning and weaving. The looms were there; also three wheels for spinning woollen and five for linen.

People from all parts of the parish came to the workhouse for

yarn and tyer, which was weighed out to them, that they might weave it at home. They then brought it back, when the stuff was again duly weighed, and they were paid for their work by the yard. For weaving linsey they received from 3*d.* to 6*d.* In one account, 69 lbs. of woollen yarn and 16 lbs. of tyer made 65 yards of stuff. The same amount in another account made 90 yards; this was paid for at a lower price. A Widow Diplock seems to have been one of the most industrious of the weavers, John Eldridge another. Except for the very great difference in prices, some of these parish accounts read like those of the present day, so similar are the names and occupations.

Mr. Fenner the tailor's bills are regularly mentioned. Matthew and John Richardson are paid for bricklayer's and carpenter's work; Hosman, also a builder and carpenter, does all the principal part of restoring the church; Foard receives payments both for shoes and for supplying leather. Thomas and John Buss supply cheese and other farm produce and are paid for hire of their horses to take people off to their own parishes, to the House of Correction, or to the "Settings" at Lewes.

Inventory of goods in the Workhouse in 1752 :—

"An account and true and perfect Inventory of the goods in the Mayfield Workhouse, taken by the officers.

"3 tables, 15 chairs, 4 joyn'd stools, 1 dresser, 1 cupboard, 1 clock, 3 dozen of trenchers, 28 pottage dishes, 2 pr. of brand irons, 2 pot hooks, 1 pr. of bellows, 1 pr. of tongs, 1 fyer shovel, 3 box irons, and 6 heaters, 2 block irons, 4 iron pottage pots, 4 skillets, 1 iron mortar and pestle, 2 dishwater kettles, 15 drinking pots, a 24 gallon boiler, 1 frying pan, 5 earthern dishes, 9 pewter dishes, 4 wooden platters, 21 beds and healing thereto belonging (a name for bedding still in use in the district), 30 pr. of tow sheets, 300 yds. of new linnen for shirting, 4 dozen of tow, 4 dozen of tyer, 20 chairs, 19 chests, 9 trunks, 1 chest with drawers, 90 shirts and shifts, 2 Bunters, 12 brass warming pans, 8 tubs, 17 barrels, 7 powdering tubs, 8 stallages, 2 brass furnaces, 11 tables, 3 woollen wheels, 5 linen wheels (spinning wheels), 1 pr. stock cards (for carding wool), 1 pr. of hand do., 12 candlesticks, 3 gridirons, 3 prs. of bellows, 6 pairs of andirons, 4 pr. of pot hangers, waits and scales, 2 half bushells and gallons, 1 runner, 1 cradle.

20 children. 15 old people."

(A great many people were boarded out at this period, sometimes for sums as low as £1 or £1 10*s.* per annum.)

In 1789 the inventory included a stock of clothing of the value of £123.

Clement Read was apparently a draper, and his bills contain

items that sound curious to modern ears. Among materials supplied to the workhouse are, swanskin, dowlas, rusha—which appear to be some kind of cloth at 6*d.* per yard—fine flaxen, homead linsey (home-made?) at 2*s.* per yard, and scarathea at 1*s.* 6*d.* per yard. He also hires out a cloak for funerals at 1*s.* He must have been a descendant of Clement Read the churchwarden, who has been previously mentioned.

There is a brief mention of a forgotten village tragedy in 1784. In March, Widow Ellis is paid 5*s.* for "bringing to bed John Huntley's wife." Only the month after comes the entry, "To William Hendley for his expenses to Ashford and Maidstone on account of John Huntley killing his wife, £4 1*s.* 0*d.*" "To Samuel Brook paid to a man from Ashford that came about John Huntley's business, 10*s.* 6*d.*"

There must have been a great scarcity of water when in 1789 "a shilling a barril" is paid for water at the Workhouse. In 1791 John Wapham's bill for "liquor and water" is £3 16*s.* 0*d.*; but there is nothing to show what was the amount of liquor, and what proportion of it was water. In 1792 Thomas Fisher's bill for water and expenses amounted to £7 0*s.* 7*d.*

The accounts are kept separately for the four quarters of the parish, viz., Town Quarter, Beibelham Quarter, Five Ashes Quarter, and Mousehall Quarter; and two overseers were appointed for each quarter.

There are frequent notices of the militia in those of the latter half of the eighteenth century, as a National Militia had again been raised and organised under the sanction of an Act of Parliament at this time. The old militia training had been discontinued after the civil wars of the previous century, owing to the great expense to the nation, and was kept up in London only. Then came the fear of a French invasion, and in 1756 considerable bodies of Hanoverian and Hessian troops were brought over for the defence of the country. Englishmen did not in general at all approve of being indebted to foreigners for protection; so the new militia was formed, and these troops were sent back to Germany.

The first notice of a Mayfield militiaman occurs in 1778—"Was paid (by the churchwardens) to Richard Ranger for being chosen for a militia man, £5." "To Edward Gorringe for being drawd in militia, £5." "Received of Buxted Parish which was overpaid for Phil Allcorn's family his being a militia man, £2 14*s.* 0*d.*"

Some other entries are as follows:—1785, "To John Buss for going to Lewes with the militia list, 5*s.*" 1791, "To John Ashby's

wife when he was in the militia, 7*s.* 6*d.*" 1793, "To Edward Gorringe for bounty militia, £3 3*s.*" "John Moore's wife and child, he is a militia man up to the 14th July, 3 weeks, 7*s.* 6*d.*" "To John Weston for being drawd militia man, £5 0*s.* 0*d.*" "To Fiebe, wife of William White, for serving in the militia for Mr. Varden, £2 4*s.*" "Paid Thos. Stapley's wife, he serving in the militia, 6*s.*"

For the years 1711-13 the assessment for the relief of the poor collected at Lady Day and Michaelmas was 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. It fell to 1*s.* in 1718. In 1720 it was 1*s.* 3*d.*, after which it was again 1*s.* until 1726, when it was 1*s.* 3*d.*, and it varied between these two later sums for some years. In 1769, the "Book of Assessment for the Reliefe of the Poor for Lady Day's half yeares tax on all Lands and Tenements within the said Parish (of Mayfield) after the rate of 2*s.* in the pound," shows a rise of 3*d.*

In 1777 it was 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, and so continued for some years. For the first half of 1780 it was 3*s.*, for the second, 2*s.* In the March quarter of 1781, it was 3*s.* 6*d.* (a total of £521 14*s.* 2*d.*) It was slightly below this until 1784, when it was again 3*s.* 6*d.* After this time, owing to bad harvests, the wars, and other causes, the price of provisions and all the necessaries of life increased yearly. Sugar was, at its cheapest, 10*d.* per lb.; tea, 7*s.* to 8*s.* per lb.; flour, from 2*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. The great rise in the price of corn was in 1795, and the price of bread in 1810 was nearly double what it had been in 1785. Everything else rose almost in proportion. The increase in the expense of living was so great to the poor man that his three shillings at this date did not go further than his two shillings would have done fifteen years before.

In these hard times a greatly added number of people received help from the parish, as is shown by the workhouse accounts. Thus in 1771 the expenditure for the year was £552 11*s.* 7*d.* In 1788 it was £1,003 17*s.* 4*d.* In 1792 it had risen again to £1,351 3*s.* 11*d.* And in 1795 to £1,563 7*s.* 6*d.*

It was not only the poor that suffered. The rates and taxes were enormous, and all classes had to practise economy. Bread was made of as little flour as possible, eked out with potatoes, bran and other substances. Miss Stone, who could just remember these times, often talked of them, and said she believed there was not a single family in Mayfield who afforded tea or coffee or white sugar daily. Candles also were so dear that it was considered extravagant to use more than one, round the feeble light of which the whole family sat and worked; so on the whole we may be thankful that we do not live in the so-called "Good Old Times."

A List of the Vicars of Mayfield.

Date of Institution.	
1315 and before.	James —— assisted by William de Isewood and Richard de Terring. The latter was appointed assistant to James, vicar of Maghefeld on April 8, 1315, who was labouring under severe bodily affliction (Reg. Reynolds, f. 15a).
1317. 23 May.	John de Thynden, who had been collated to the vicarage of Wadhurst in 1316, which he resigned in the following year.
	Ralph de Ravenstan.
1251 23rd March.	Ralph Baker de Sevenoke, collated on the resignation of Ralph de Ravenstan (Reg. Islep, f. 260a).
1361. 12 Aug.	John de Wiclif. He was appointed Warden of Canterbury Hall, Oxford, by Archbishop Islep. It was at one time believed he was the Reformer (see p. 45). A grant of land at Mayfield was made by Archbishop Sudbury to John Whittclyve, vicar of Maghefeld in 1380 (Reg. Sudbury, f. 68b), and the next year he resigned the living for that of Horstede Kaynes (f. 134a), which he held until his death in 1383, together with a prebend's stall at Chichester. He gave directions in his Will, proved at Lambeth, Nov. 21, 1383, that his body should be buried in the Chapel at the Hospital of the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul, Maydeston (Reg. Courtenay, f. 207a).
1380(1). 15 Jan.	Simon Russell, rector of Horstede Raynes, co. Sussex, collated by exchange with John Whiteclyve (Reg. Sudbury, f. 134a). He became Archdeacon of Chichester in 1382, which dignity he held until 1387, when he was appointed chancellor of that cathedral (Pat. Roll, 11 Richard II., p. 1, m. 7). He appears to have exchanged the archdeaconry of Chichester and the prebend of Merton in the same church for the vicarage of Sutton in Holand, Lincoln diocese, on May 3, 1387 (Reg. Buckingham, Ep. Linc., pars xii.).
1382. April 15th.	William Wardewe, Archdeacon of Chichester, collated by exchange with Simon Russell (Reg. Courtenay, f. 224a). By his Will, proved Aug. 7, 1382, he directed to be buried in the Church of St. Dunstan, Maghefeld. He gave to the adorning of the image of the Blessed Virgin, 6*s.* 8*d.* to the works of the church, 6*s.* 8*d.*; to the

Date of Institution.

shrine of St. Richard at Chichester, 6*s.* 8*d.* To the poor at his burial, 40*s.*; to Sir Thomas Laporte a cloak lined with "syndone" and two trussing coffers; to Robert Wardewe a long lined gown; to Richard Huchin, his servant, a short cloak and a little black nag; to his kinsman, Richard Pratt, his best bed and cushions; to Agnes Byggs, a crimson surcoat and a black cassock. The rest of his property he left for the good of his soul. The record of this Will is at Lambeth Palace (Reg. Courtenay, f. 201a).

1382. July 21. Geoffrey Mareschall, collated on the death of William Wardewe.

1382. Aug. 31. John Sabyn, collated on the resignation of Geoffrey Mareschall.

1382. Oct. 2. William Lyndon, Rector of Parva Warle (Little Warley), co. Essex, in exchange with John Sabyn (Reg. Courtenay, f. 246b).

1389. May 28. John Chapman of Bampton, rector of Denton, co. Sussex, in exchange with William Lyndon (Reg. Courtenay, f. 272b).

Date unknown. John Scoy.

1404. May 2. Richard Maynford, vicar of Seton, co. Devon, by exchange with John Scoy (Reg. Arundell, pars. i., f. 302a).

Date unknown. Henry Trowell.

1417. Dec. 19. William Blundell, vicar of Wymering, co. Hants, collated by exchange with Henry Trowell (Reg. Chichele, pars. i., f. 92b).

1450(1). March 17. William Hebbenge (Reg. Stafford, f. 109a).

Date unknown. Robert Chaloner.

1459. Oct. 18. Thomas Lemster, collated on the resignation of Robert Chaloner (Reg. Bourchier, f. 76a). By his Will, dated 1481, he directed to be buried in the chancel of Mayfield Church, before the High Altar. He gave to the mother church of Malling, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the repairs of Mayfield Church, 3*s.* 4*d.*; and directed masses should be sung for his soul, and the souls of his parents, ancestors and benefactors, for the space of a year, for which he left 10 marks. To John Corbet he left a silver-gilt maser, a feather bed with its appurtenances, 6 of his best silver spoons, 20*s.* in money, and such of his utensils as his executors chose to give. To his brother, 6*s.* 8*d.*, to pray for his soul; to

Date of Institution.	
	John Coke, his servant, a mattress, coverlet, and two blankets, also 6*s.* 8*d.*; and the rest to his executors.
1481. March 18.	Thomas Symys, collated on the death of Thomas Lemster (Reg. Bourchier, f. 129b).
1502. April 29.	William Dale, M.A., collated (Reg. Morton, Dene, Bourchier, c. f. 170a).
1544(5). Feb. 4.	Geoffrey Aprice, M.A., collated on the resignation of William Dale (Reg. Cranmer, f. 394a). He compounded for first fruits on Feb. 5 (36 Hen. VIII. (Lib. Comp.)).
Date unknown.	William Wilson, vicar of Mayfield, compounded for first fruits on July 17 (2 Mary (Lib. Comp.)).
1559. July 19.	Henry Beecher, clerk, admitted on the death of the last incumbent; patron, John Gresham, Esq. (Reg. Dec. et Cap. Cant. post mortem Regin. Pole, f. 18b). He compounded for first fruits on the same day (Lib. Comp.).
1567(8). Feb. 20.	Thomas Goddall, clerk, admitted on the resignation of Henry Beecher; patron, John Gresham, Esq. He compounded for first fruits on March 26 (10 Eliz.), and was installed prebendary of Eartham in the cathedral church at Chichester on June 22, 1571. (Add. MSS. 5699.)
1589. April 28.	George Carleton, clerk, M.A. (Edmund Hall, Oxford; B.A. 1579; M.A. 1585; B.D. 1594; D.D. 1613). He was the only son of Guy Carleton, Constable of Norham Castle, who served in the French wars under King Hen. VIII. He was elected Bishop of Llandaff on Dec. 23, 1617, and was consecrated at Lambeth on July 12, 1618, and translated to the See of Chichester on Sept. 8, 1619. He died in May, 1628, aged 69, and was buried on the 27th of that month in the Choir of Chichester Cathedral. He married, first, Ann, daughter of Sir Henry Killegrew, widow of Sir Henry Nevill of Billingbear; and secondly, Avis, daughter of Weston of Sharnden, Mayfield (Le Neve's Fasti, Wood's Ath. Oxon., etc.).
1605. Aug. 23.	Edward Topsell, M.A., instituted; patron, James I., "*per lapsum temporis*" (Reg. Bancroft, f. 269b). He was in a few months removed from the vicarage of Mayfield by an order from the King dated Feb. 7, 1605(6) (f. 272a), obtained through the petition of George Carleton, who asserted

Date of Institution.

that the vicarage was not vacant, and that he was the true vicar thereof (Reg. Abbott, pars. i., f. 188 b). Carleton, however, does not appear to have retained the living, as a new incumbent was immediately appointed. Edward Topsell was inducted rector of East Hoathley on June 21, 1596 (Add MSS. 5697), and admitted to the vicarage of East Grinstead on May 5, 1610 (Suss. Arch. Colls., XX., p. 147).

1605(6). Feb. 19. William Whitfeld, M.A., instituted; patron, John Porter, of Beigham, co. Sussex, gent., the advowson of the vicarage and right of patronage having been conceded to him by Sir Thomas Maye of Mayfield, Knt. (Reg. Bancroft, f. 278a). The entry of his burial in the parish registers is as follows: "Mr. W^{m}. Whitfield, vicar of Mayfield, buried Nov. 8, 1610."

1610. Nov. 21. John Luck, instituted on the death of William Whitfield. Buried, July 12, 1624 (Par. Reg.).

1624. July 30. John Maynard, M.A. (Queen's Coll., Oxford, B.A. Feb. 8, 1619; M.A. of Magdalen Hall, a compounder, June 26, 1662), instituted on the death of John Luck; patrons, Thomas Maynard of Mayfield and William Peckham of Mayfield, Yeomen (Reg. Abbott, pars. ii., f. 336b). He compounded for first fruits on Aug. 12 (22 James I.). He was a strong Puritan, and one of the Assembly of Divines. He was deprived in 1662, on his refusal to comply with the Act of Uniformity. His curate, Elias Paul D'Aranda, was also deprived, and afterwards became pastor of the French or Walloon church in the Undercroft of Canterbury Cathedral. Another of his curates, John Hatch, was on July 22, 1635, absolved from the sentence of suspension for not appearing before the Archbishop at his metropolitanical visitation (Reg. Laud, f. 228a). (For further particulars of Maynard's life, see page 100.)

1662(3). Jan. 9. Francis Seyliard, instituted on the deprivation of John Maynard; patron, John Baker, Esq. (Reg. Juxon, f. 144a).

1663(4). March 16. Robert Peck, M.A., instituted on the cession of Francis Seyliard; patron, John Baker, Esq. (Reg. Sheldon, f. 322b).

1696. July 16. Peter Baker, B.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Date of Institution.	
	(B.A. 1694, M.A. 1698); instituted on the death of Robert Peck; patron, John Baker, Esq. (Reg. Tillotson, f. 195a). "Rev Mr. Peter Baker bur. Jan. 26, 1729-80" (Par. Reg.). He was the third son of John Baker of Mayfield Place, Esq., by Ruth, daughter of Peter Farnden of Sedlescomb, co. Sussex.
1730. July 1.	Odiarne Hooper (University Coll., Oxford; B.C.L. Feb. 27, 1726), instituted on the death of Peter Baker; patron, Michael Baker, Esq. (Reg. Wake, pars. ii., f. 256b). He was instituted to the rectory of East Guildford, co. Sussex, on July 26, 1736; and to the vicarage of Hailsham on July 10, 1753, when he ceded the former living. He died in 1770.
1733(4). Feb. 20.	Robert Hooper (University Coll., Oxford; B.A. Feb. 6, 1729), instituted on the resignation of Odiarne Hooper; patron, Michael Baker, Esq. (Reg. Wake, pars. ii., f. 273a). "Rev. Mr. Robt. Hooper, vicar, bur. Nov. 18, 1746" (Par. Reg.).
1746(7). March 17.	John Godman (Jesus Coll., Cambridge; B.A. 1737), instituted on the death of Robert Hooper; patron, Michael Baker, Esq. (Reg. Potter, f. 299a).
1752. Jan. 9.	Richard Porter, M.A. (Jesus Coll., Cambridge; B.A. 1737); instituted on the death of John Godman; patron, Geo. Baker, Esq. (Reg. Herring, f. 291 b). He was instituted to the rectory of East Hoathly, Dec. 4, 1741, which he resigned in 1752; also instituted to the rectory of Chailey, Oct. 30, 1753; died Feb. 3, 1762.
1762. March 31.	Roger Challice (Pembroke Coll., Cambridge; B.A., Oxford incorp., 1762; M.A. 1762); instituted on the death of Richard Porter; patron, Michael Baker of Uckfield, gent., by the advice and with the consent of Rev. Thomas Porter, his guardian (Bish. Certif.). He was instituted to the vicarage of Alciston, Oct. 31, 1760, and to the rectory of Chailley, March 25, 1762 (Bish. Certif.). He vacated these benefices by death, in 1780.
1780. Oct. 16.	John Kirby, M.A. (St. John's Coll., Cambridge, B.A. 1766; Clare Coll., M.A. 1769); instituted on the death of Roger Challice; patron, the said John Kirby, on his own petition (Bish. Certif.).
1810. Sept. 26.	John Kirby, the younger, B.A. (St. John's Coll., Cambridge, B.A. 1810, M.A. 1813); instituted on the resignation of John Kirby, the elder; patron,

Date of Institution.		
		the said John Kirby, the elder, of the parish of Mayfield (Bish. Certif.). He died Oct. 27, 1844, aged 58.
1845.	March 7.	Henry Thomas Murdoch Kirby, B.A. (St. John's Coll., Cambridge, B.A. 1844, M.A. 1847). Instituted on the death of his father.*
1897.	Sept. 30.	John Henry Reginald Kirby (St. John's Coll., Cambridge, B.A. 1872, M.A. 1884), vicar of Patrixbourne-cum-Bridge 1884–1897. Instituted at Chichester on the death of his father. (Previous vicars have all been instituted by the Archbishops of Canterbury, Mayfield having been until recently one of their "peculiars.")

* Suss. Arch. Colls., Vol. XXV., and Courthope MSS., Coll. of Arms.

CHAPTER X.

WHEN Archbishop Cranmer surrendered (*inter alia*) the rectory of Mayfield to the Crown in 1545, the great tithes were on lease to William Pankhurst of Mayfield at £15 per annum, and he continued to hold the lease until his death in 1568, when he directed his executors to distribute eight bushels of wheat yearly among the poor during the residue of the term.

In the meantime the rectory, by letters patent dated January 5, 37 Henry VIII. (1545–6), had been granted to Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentation, and Dame Alice, his wife, "paying to y^e^ king, his heirs and successors, for y^e^ rectory of Maughfield and y^e^ rest of the premises to y^e^ same rectory belonging, £1 10*s.*," and in the same year it was conveyed to Sir John Gresham, knt., and William Harding. On the death of Sir John in 1554, it passed by will to his son John, who in 9 Eliz. alienated it to Antony Stringer, gent., to be held by him for certain expressed uses. The Mayfield estates, with the rectory, were, however, transferred to Sir Thomas Gresham, knt., before 1570, who in that year conveyed to Antony Stringer, gent., Thomas Ceely, and the heirs of Antony, for the uses expressed in an indenture then made, *inter alia*, the impropriate rectory of Mayfield.

In 17 Eliz., however, Sir Thomas revoked and determined all the uses, estates, and interests limited and declared by the above indenture, to do which he had reserved the privilege. His death took place in the same year, and by will dated July 5, 17 Eliz., and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, November 26, 1579, he left all his property in Mayfield and Wadhurst to his cousin, Sir Henry Nevill, knt., and the heirs male of Dame Elizabeth, his wife, with remainder to his own wife, Dame Anne Gresham, should the said Sir Henry Nevill or his heirs fail to bear or cause to be borne, within a certain time after the death of the said Sir Thomas Gresham, "the charges of wardshippe, livery, or primer season, accordinge to the intent and meaninge of these presents."

The impropriate rectory was not specially mentioned, and some

disagreement having arisen as to the purport of the several clauses of the will, an Act of Parliament was obtained in 23 Eliz. "for the stablishynge of an agreement betweene Sir Henry Nevill, knight, and Dame Anne Gresham, wydowe, for the better performyng of the laste Will of Sir Thomas Gresham, knight, deceased, and for the payment of his debtes."

The rectory of Mayfield was by this Act of Parliament fully confirmed to the Nevill family, in which it remained until 1597, when, by indenture dated May 6 of that year, Henry Nevill of Billingbear, co. Berks., Esq., granted it to Thomas May, of Burwash, Esq., who was afterwards knighted, and became a resident at Mayfield. Soon after his decease, his representatives, "Dame Jane Maye, widow of Sir Thomas Maye of Mayfield in y^e^ co. of Sussex, kt., deceased, and Thomas May of Mayfield, Esq^re^., son and heir of y^e^ said Sir Thomas Maye, and Richard Maye of Islington in Middlesex, gent.," sold the rectory to John Baker, of Mayfield, gent., as we learn from an indenture enrolled in Chancery, bearing date November 17, 1617. This last-named gentleman divided the rectorial or great tithes into two portions, and by indenture dated July 6, 1632, granted to the Earl of Essex and others (trustees of Henry Smith, Esq.,* and purchasers in pursuance of directions left in Smith's will),

"All the tithes or tenths of corn, grass, hay, and all other tithes to the Parsonage of Mayfield, belonging, growing, and increasing in and upon the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, lying in Mayfield, on the west side of the highway leading from Street-end and Scotsford-bridge to the end of Baynden-lane, and which doth lie on the south side of Baynden-lane, and leading from the end thereof to Spadescross, to the messuage called Claytons, and to Duddsland, and on the east side of the highway leading from thence to Waldron Down, and also in and upon 20 acres of land in the occupation of Robert Stephens, lying on the north side of Baynden-lane, except the tithes of the lands of Thomas Aynscombe Esq^re^, containing 180 acres, lying on the south side of the highway leading from Spadescross to Duddsland, and upon the lands of Edward or Edmund Firby Esq^re^., 120 acres lying on the south side of the same highway; and also except the tithes of the woodland of John Baker, in Mayfield."

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* Henry Smith (known as "Dog" Smith), a native of Surrey, died in 1627. He left to his executors the right of distributing enormous benefactions to various towns. There is a tradition that he began life as a beggar, probably untrue, although he was of humble origin. An account of the places which benefited under his Will may be found in Lyson's "Environs." Vol. I., p. 386.

This portion of the great tithes is still vested in the trustees of Smith's Charity, the tithe rent-charge being £162.

The other portion of the rectory of Mayfield remained in Mr. Baker's possession for some years. Ultimately it became vested in Thomas, Lord Culpepper, who, by deed bearing date October 4, 1688, granted the tithes belonging to the parsonage of Mayfield, and lands in the parishes of Bodiam and Ewhurst, co. Sussex, and also marshland in the parish of Lydd and Bromehill, cos. Kent and Sussex, to trustees for a term of two hundred years. The only child and heiress of Lord Culpepper, Catherine, married Thomas Lord Fairfax, whose son Thomas became entitled to the remainder in fee of the tithes of Mayfield and the above-named lands, expectant upon the expiration of the term of two hundred years. He conveyed the tithes, with the other hereditaments, by deed dated January 20, 1737(8), to William Morland, Esq., afterwards of the Court Lodge, Lamberhurst; and they were then vested in William Courtenay Morland, Esq., of the Court Lodge, Lamberhurst, subject to the unexpired term of two hundred years.

The lease granted by Lord Culpepper was, in the last century, held by the Hooper family, the Rev. Thomas Hooper, Rector of Beckley, co. Sussex, being the lessee when Burrell formed his MS. collections for Sussex. About the year 1803, however, the remainder of the term was purchased by John Thompson, Esq., of Roehampton and Waverley Abbey, co. Surrey, father of Lord Sydenham, who conveyed it to Lord Carington, whose descendant, the present peer, still holds it.

This portion of the great tithes is commuted for a rent charge of £858 per annum.

We have already seen that Dame Jane May, widow, and second wife of Sir Thomas May, and others conveyed the rectory to John Baker, of Mayfield, gent., by indenture dated November 17, 1617, but in this conveyance no allusion is made to the vicarage of the parish church. Probably the term granted to John Porter had not then expired, but, however this may have been, Thomas Maynard, of Mayfield, yeoman, and William Peckham, of Mayfield, yeoman, were the patrons in 1624.* From them it passed to John Baker, and on his decease, to his eldest son, John, who, having in 1696 presented his son, the Rev. Peter Baker, to the vicarage, granted by

* As trustees under the will of the Rev. John Luck, Vicar. They were his brothers-in-law, and acted for the widow, Susannah Luck, who was sole executrix. The will contains the clause:—"Also I will that the advowson of the patronage of the parish church or vicarage of Mayfield be sold."

deed enrolled in Chancery dated December 10, 1706, to the said Peter Baker, his heirs and assigns for ever.

"y^e^ advowson, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage and presentation of and to y^e^ vicarage and parish church of Mayfield, together with y^e^ vicarage house, and glebe of s^d^ vicarage, situate, lyeing and being in y^e^ parish of Mayfield aforesaid, and also all y^e^ tythes of corn, grain, and hay, yearly comeing and growing, &c., within that part of y^e^ said parish of Mayfield called Five Ash quarter, wherewith y^e^ s^d^ vicarage is endowed, and all and singular vicarage or small tythes whatsoever yearly comeing &c., within the same parish, or any y^e^ quarters, hamlets, villes, or members thereof."

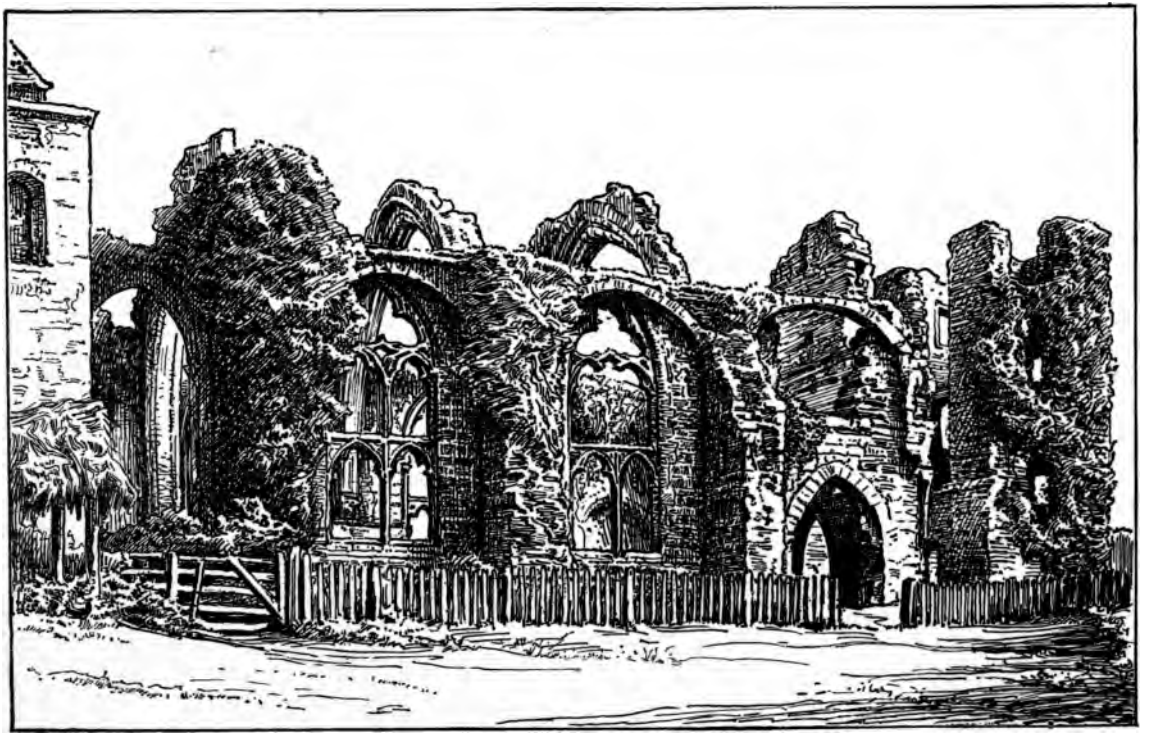
On the death of the Rev. Peter Baker in 1730, his son, Michael Baker, became patron. On his death in 1750 the advowson passed to his uncle, George Baker, Esq., who died unmarried in 1771, and whose sister, Anne Ruth, conveyed it by marriage to the Rev. John Kirby, in whose family it has since remained.

The history of the great tithes gives, in a measure, the history of the owners of the Palace, but we must go back a little to glean further particulars respecting them.

After the surrender of the archbishops' property at Mayfield to King Henry VIII. by Cranmer, the King granted by letters patent, which bear date January 5th, 1546, to Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Augmentation Office, and Alice, his wife:—

"All that Lordship and Manor of Mayfield and Frankham in Sussex with their rights members appurtenances late being parcel of the lands possessions reversions and rents of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and also all the rectories of Mayfield and Wadhurst with all and every their rights and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Archbishopric and See of the Archbishop of Canterbury heretofore belonging or appertaining, and all and singular tenths oblations pensions or portions annuities and proffits to the said Rectories or either of them belonging or appertaining in the said County of Sussex, and also the advowson donations and presentations and free disposition and right of presentation to the Vicarage Churches of Mayfield and Wadhurst aforesaid late belonging to the Archbishops of Canterbury, to hold to the said Sir Edward North and Dame Alice his wife and the heirs and assigns of the said Sir Edward for ever, under the rent of one twentieth part of a knight's fee,* and paying

* A "knight's fee" was supposed to be so much land as would suffice to maintain him, and enable him to present himself and his retainers ready equipped for the field in times of emergency. Hence, a knight's fee as applied to land represented no definite quantity, and varied extremely in amount. The term is also sometimes used for the rent paid to the lord for the fee.



RUINS OF MAYFIELD PALACE.

to the King his heirs and successors for the rectory of Mayfield and the rest of the premises thereto belonging £1 10*s.*, for the rectory of Wadhurst and other premises there £1 4*s.* 4*d.*, for Frankham Park £1, for the said manor of Mayfield and all the rest of the premises in Mayfield and Wadhurst also Woodhurst and Lamberhurst £9 11*s.* 6*d.*, payable to the Court of Augmentation of the Crown at Michaelmas and Lady Day for all rents services and demands whatsoever; and moreover the King grants to the said Sir Edward North and Dame Alice his wife and the heirs of Sir Edward the liberty of holding courts of Frank pledge and Leets and all thereto appertaining, free warrens and all thereto appertaining, and all goods chattels waifs estrays assize and assizes of bread" &c.

The Court of Augmentations, of which Sir Edward North was the first Chancellor, was established by Henry VIII., for managing the revenues and possessions of all monasteries under £200 a year, but was short-lived, being abolished in the reign of Edward VI. Sir Edward North was a man who managed affairs of importance with prudence and despatch, and was a celebrated lawyer, also one of the king's sergeants-at-law, a privy councillor, and one of the sixteen guardians appointed during the minority of Edward VI. He was raised to the peerage by Mary in 1554, being then summoned to Parliament as Baron North of Kirtling, co. Cambridge. He was the ancestor of the Lord North who was Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782 and afterwards Earl of Guildford.

The manor of Mayfield was not the only property granted to him by Henry VIII. He was also given Crown lands at Harrow-on-the-Hill, and at Leybourne in Kent, and Charterhouse in London, where Queen Elizabeth paid him a visit of four days; which visit is said to have cost him so much that he had afterwards to spend the rest of his days in retirement at Peterhouse, Cambridge, where his portrait is still to be seen. Alice, his wife, had been twice a widow before she married him; his second wife, Margaret, took him as her fourth husband. There is a curious epitaph to her memory in St. Lawrence Church, London :—

"Lo! Here the Lady Margaret North
In tombe and earth do lye,
Of husbands four the faithfull spouse,
Whose fame shall never dye.
One Andrew Francis was the first,
The second Robert hight,
Surnamed Chartsey, Alderman,
Sir David Brooke, a knight,
Was third. But he that passed all
And was in number fourth,

And for his virtues made a lord,
Was called Sir Edward North.
These altogether do I wish
A joyfull rising day;
That of the Lord and of his Christ
All honour they may say.
Obitt II die Junii, An. Dom. 1575."

The same church also contains a monument to Sir Richard Gresham, the father of Sir Thomas Gresham, the next owner of Mayfield Palace, for Sir Edward North did not long retain this gift of his sovereign. He sold it within the next year to Sir Thomas Gresham, one of the richest of the London merchants, a son of Sir Richard Gresham, who was Lord Mayor in 1537. Thomas Gresham was born in 1519, and became a great financier, arranging many government affairs, especially in Holland. Queen Elizabeth employed him in many difficult transactions, and appointed him her Agent-General in foreign parts.

In one of Gresham's posting expeditions in Flanders, he fell from his horse and broke his leg, and it was years afterwards a source of pain and inconvenience to him. In a letter to Lord Burghley, dated Mayfield, March, 1571, he thus alludes to his fractured limb:—

"I have this day returned Dirricke, the sourgeant, home agayen, wnoe hath brought my legge to some good passe now that the bones be come out, and sayeth that he will hele it shorteley."

He, with his wife and household had retired to Mayfield the autumn previously, when one of his servants sickened with the plague at Osterley, near Brentford, another of his residences. There is a record in the parish registers of Heston, in which Osterley is situated, to the effect that two of his servants died of the plague. The people of Mayfield would no doubt have looked with much disfavour on this possibly infected household coming into their midst. Mayfield Palace seems to have surpassed his other houses in point of splendour, and contained magnificent furniture. The goods and chattels belonging to the room called "The Queen's Chamber" were valued at £7,553.* This estimate is said to have been taken from Sir Thomas Gresham's own journal, but it must evidently refer to the furniture of the whole mansion and was a large valuation for those days. Both at Osterley and at Mayfield he was honoured by visits from his sovereign. Of her visit to him at Osterley it is recorded that he was so finished a courtier that

* Biography of Sir T. Gresham in 'Biographia Britannica.'

when the Queen remarked on the evening of her arrival that the prospect from her window would be improved if bounded by a wall, she found next morning that a wall had arisen, as if by magic, during the night.

It was in the year 1573 that Queen Elizabeth was entertained by him at Mayfield. Nichols, in his history of her "progresses," as these royal journeys were called, says:

"She was at her own house, Knowles, for five days; from thence she went to Birlingham (Birling), the Lord Bergavenny's house, where she remained three days, and from thence made a visit to Sir Thomas Gresham, at Mayfield; thence to Eridge for six days; thence to Bedgbury, Mr. Culepper's, for one day; thence to Hempstead, Mr. Guildford's for three days; thence to Rye."

Lord Burleigh's letter, written on this occasion, giving a description of the state of the roads, is quoted in Chapter I.

Nor was the condition of the roadways the only difficulty attending these royal progresses. It was a puzzling matter in country places how to provide sufficient food for the enormous banquets customary on such occasions. Lord Buckhurst had actually to import provisions from Flanders in preparation for the Queen's visit to him, as other noblemen, who also anticipated that honour, had literally bought up all the available supplies throughout Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Mention has already been made of a mantelpiece at the palace carved with grasshoppers, the Gresham badge, dated 1571; of which the figure five looks very much like a three, so that the date has been taken for 1371. The workmanship, however, is that of the sixteenth century, not that of the fourteenth.

It is said that Sir Thomas built an especial staircase leading to the Queen's apartments that she might not use one in common with anyone else. This was not the wide stone staircase, with the iron hand-rail, which must be well remembered, and which was of earlier date than Queen Elizabeth's time.

The only son of Sir Thomas died in 1564, at the age of sixteen; and he therefore bequeathed his Mayfield property to his kinsman, Sir Henry Nevill. The will bears date 5th July, 1575, and contains the following devise regarding Mayfield:—

"I do will and dispose, as concerning my manner or manners of Mayefylld and Wadherst with the appurtenances and all my lands tenements and hereditaments in the County of Sussex or elsewhere used or reputed or belonging to the said manner or manners of Mayefylld or Wadherst, that after the expiration and determination of the particular

uses and estates and interest for life and entayle thereof limited in an Indenture quadrupartite made between me the said Sir Thomas Gresham and Dame Anne my wife on the one partie and Philip Scudamire gent and Thomas Celey on the other partie (dated 20 May 17 Eliz.) (1575), the same shall remaine and the use thereof shall be unto my cousin Sir Henry Nevile and to the heirs male of Dame Elizabeth his wife my niece."

Dame Anne Gresham, his widow, had by the indenture quoted in the will a life interest in all the Sussex estates, as well as in large properties elsewhere. (In "A brief of the clear yearly value of the lands of Sir Thomas Gresham," who died in 1579, the manors of Mayfield and Wadhurst, with the parsonages there, the park and forges, or iron smithies, with other commodities and several charges and reprizes, are valued at £240.)

Gresham's diplomatic career had commenced in the reign of Henry VIII., and was continued during the three following reigns. On the accession of Mary, it had been resolved to recall him from a mission to the Low Countries; but he professed his desire to serve the Queen, and his services were retained throughout her reign. He was at Antwerp in the year 1556 and part of 1557 until the outbreak of the war in the Low Countries, which necessitated his return. He was thus spared the pain of being in England during the religious troubles of this time, when persecutions were not confined to those in authority, but did not spare his humbler neighbours in Mayfield itself.

Archbishop Cranmer suffered death at the stake on the 21st March, 1556. Many professing the reformed faith sought refuge in other countries, especially in Holland; but between two and three hundred people suffered the penalty of death.

Among these were some of the inhabitants of Mayfield. Their story is given by Foxe, in his "History of the Acts and Monuments of the Church," commonly known as "Foxe's Book of Martyrs." The following is taken from an edition of his work, published in the year 1610:

"Next after the martyrdome of Edward Sharpe, above said, followed foure, which suffered at Mayfield, Sussex, the XXIII day of September, An. 1556, of whose names two we find recorded, and the other two we know not yet, and these foure, according to our register hereinunder, they be specified as we find them,

John Hart;
Thomas Ravensdale;
A shoe-maker;
A currier;

which said foure, being at the place where they should suffer, after they had made their praier, and were at the stake ready to abide the force of the fire, they constantlie and joyfullie yielded their lives to the testimonye of the glorious Gospell of Jesus Christ, unto whom bee praise for ever and ever. Amen." *

In the next year, on 22nd of June, 1557, the following persons suffered death at Lewes, namely :—George Stephens, Richard Woodman, of Warbleton, William Maynard, Alexander Hosman, and Thomasine à Woode, all of Mayfield ; also Margery Morris, of Heathfield, and her son ; Denys Burgess, of Buxtead, and Ashdowne's wife and Grove's wife, of Rotherfield.†

It is said their prison was a vault still in existence under the old Star Inn at Lewes (now occupied by public offices) in front of which they were burnt. It is a dreary cell, entered from the High Street by a flight of fifteen steps. It had a second flight of steps, which led into the hall of the inn, but which probably formerly communicated with the keep of the castle. The arched roof of this vault is formed of large stones like the walls. There were several openings for the admission of light, only one of which remains

* The spot where the Mayfield people suffered was the ground upon which Dr. Hall's house now stands, about fifteen yards south from the road.

† Foxe, whose facts are not absolutely to be relied on, is said to have obtained some of his particulars from some curious rhymes, called "The Register of the Martyrs," by the Rev. Thomas Brice, published surreptitiously in 1559. Two publishers were fined "for pryntinge the Regester of all them that were burned, without lycense." The verse giving the names of these last, runs thus :—

1557.

"June 22. When William Mainarde, his maid and man,
„ 22. Margery Mories, and her son,
„ 22. Denis Burges, Stevens, and Wodman,
„ 22. Grove's wife, and Ashdon's to death were done,
When one fire at Lewes brought them to death
We wished for our Elizabeth."

This "Register" concludes with the words :—

"Pray we therefore, both night and day
For her Highness, as we be bound,
O Lord, Preserve this Branch of Bay!
(And all her foes with force confound.)
Here long to live! and after death,
Receive our Queen Elizabeth.
Amen."

martyrs at the present time. According to Foxe eight of these martyrs had been apprehended only two or three days previously, so that they could hardly have undergone even the presence of a trial.

William Maynard is said to have been a member of an ancient family at Mayfield, from which the well-known Serjeant John Maynard, afterwards sprang. Alexander Hosman was in Mr. Maynard's service, and Thomasine a Woode, who was also a native of Mayfield, is described by Foxe as "Maynard's mayde."

A native of Mayfield who appears to have achieved some distinction about this period was John Mere (from whose family Mere's Farm, with its pretty old house, in the Five Ashes quarter of the parish, probably took its name). He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. He was esquire bedel, appraiser, registrar, public notary, and gauger to the University; a singular combination of offices, which proves he must have been a very practical man. He was a benefactor to Corpus Christi and King's Colleges; and bequeathed two houses to the University; and also presented it with valuable collections, made by himself. He wrote a curious journal, detailing the proceedings of the Commissioners for the visitation of the University during the Chancellorship of Cardinal Pole, which is printed in Dr. Lamb's Cambridge documents.* His will bears date 1558.

* Lower's "Sussex Worthies."

CHAPTER XI.

BURRELL, in his Sussex Collections in the British Museum* has the following Inquisition, taken of the Manor of Isenhurst (situate on the S.W. boundary of Mayfield Parish) in the year 1579.

"The jurors return that the 'burough' of Isenhurst is within the liberty and Duchy of Lancaster, and the parishes of Heathfield, Waldron, and Hellingly, and parcel of either of those parishes, and that there is no Church or town within this Borough. It boundeth first to Waldron furnace, to Skinners brook, and thence to Wytchens, Knapps, thence to Downly, thence to Dunstan's bridge, thence to lands called Newick, thence to Horapleter; so to the gyll that lyeth thro' Bayly, to Bennett's Brook, thence to the midst of Bowriter, then to Hale Hall, thence to a croft of Road Asyles, and so along the east side of Tanners and Holcates to Burnt Oakes, and so to the lower corner of Fynall, thence to Beard Lane's bridge, thence to Gyll bridge, so to Synderford stream, thence to the further side of the lands that Wood House standeth in, and so down to the brook that cometh from Waldron furnace, and so on to the furnace where the jurors began." †

These boundaries are partly traceable now, though some of the names have disappeared; and they prove that at that time the Manor of Isenhurst covered a much greater area than in the present day. Burrell calls "Old Mill" (near Dunstan's Bridge) the "Manor Farm." In all the Inquisitions a water-mill is named. Isenhurst anciently belonged to the Priory of Michilham, and was annexed thereto in 1281 by Thomas de Burton and Joan his wife, when it was valued at £2 a year.

At the Dissolution in 1537, Henry VIII. granted to Thomas

* Additional MSS., vol. 5702.

† These Inquisitions were inquiries held on oath by a jury of the district on the death of a tenant in capite. The jury had to inquire, (i) of what lands the person died seised, (ii) by what rents or services the same were held, and (iii) who was his next heir, and of what age; they had also to ascertain whether the tenant was attainted of treason, or an alien (in which case the lands reverted to the Crown). These returns were used for levying such duties and services as were due; and the system continued till 1649—the end of the feudal system.

Cromwell "the house and site of the suppressed Priory of Michelham, Sussex, and also the lordships and manors of Michelham . . . Isenhurst . . . The water mill in Mafeld . . . and lands and tenements elsewhere belonging to the said late priory, in as full manner as the late prior held the same."

After the fall and execution of Cromwell in July, 1540, the King granted it to Sir Richard Sackville, who only retained it a short time, as he sold it in 1544 to Sir John Baker, the Attorney-General, who, two years before, had been granted by the King

"the reversion of the priory of the New Priory of Hastings, and of the manor of Haselden, with lands, etc., and all manors, lands, etc., in New Priory, Burwash, Hurstmonceux, Watlyng, Dolyng, Tyseherst, Ashburnam, Warbilton, Mayfeld, Hasting, Holyngton, Besiell, Westham, Willingdon, Ewherst, Brede, Odymere, Winchelsea, Ikelsham, Gestlyng, Fareleigh, Westfield, and Crowhurst to the said priory belonging, to have to him and his heirs for ever."

Isenhurst was afterwards possessed by the Mayfield branch of the Baker family, through whom it passed in 1831 to the Rev. John Kirby, by whom it was sold in 1842 to Morgan Thomas, Esqre., who afterwards took the name of Treherne. He lived at Gatehouse, on the estate, of which some remains are left; and commenced the present house, by adding to an old farm house. This is not on the site of the old mansion of Isenhurst, which, judging from outlines and foundations traceable not many years ago, was probably at the back of Gatehouse.

There were other manors in Mayfield Parish besides the manors of Mayfield and Isenhurst. Bibleham Manor has already been mentioned. A certain John Waleys died in 1418, holding "Hawksden Manor in parochia de Meghfeld, ut de honor de Richmond," Sussex, as shown by an Inquisition of that date. The "Manor of Pennybridge" is mentioned in Neville's Indenture, and Mr. Michael Baker, in his will, dated 1771 mentions his manor, or reputed manor of Bungehurst. The Marquess Camden is lord of the Manors of Bibleham and Baynden; and the Rev. R. R. Kirby is lord of the Manor of Mayfield Baker. The Brand family also have certain manorial rights in the parish.

Among the Parliamentary surveys of the time of the Commonwealth is one of the Manor of Sharnden entitled

"A Survey and particular of the Mannor of Sharenden, with the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, scituate lying and being in the parishes of Mayfeild Rotherfeild and Wadhurst within the Rape of Pevensey in the County of Sussex, parcell of, and belonging to, the late

principall and Commonalty of the Vicar's Chorall of the Cathedral Church of Chichester, as followeth, viz :—

In present possession.

The quitt rent to the Lord of the said mannor of Sharrenden from the ffreeholders within the parishes of Mayfeild, Rotherfeild, and Wadhurst, holding freely of the said mannor and payable at Michaelmas only are p. Ann. iiij£ vij^{s} xj^{d} ob.

The rents of assize due from ye Coppie holders within the parish of Mayfeild and Rotherfeild holding of the sàid Mannor by fines arbitrary according to the Custome of the said Mannor and payable at Michaelmas only, are p. Ann. xxiij^{s} ij^{d}. The Courts Barron fines and ammerciam^{ts} of Courts, issues and postfines vpon descent or allienac̃on herriotts releifes and all other proffitts and p̃quisites within ye afores^{d} Mann^{r} or estimated coĩbus (communibus) Annis vi£.

Freeholders.

Thomas Manser holdeth freely forty acres of land called Doozes in Sharrenden by the rent of			xviij^{d}
The heiress of Richard Maynard holds freely fifty acres of land in Sharrenden by the yearly rent of ..		xiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
William Cruttal holdeth freely twenty acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of			xx^{d}
Edward Muddle holdeth freely sixtie acres of land in Sharrenden by the rent of		iiij^{s}	ix^{d}
William Weston holdeth freely a messuage and water mill and five and fortie acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of		v^{s}	
Thomas Weston holdeth freely seaven and thirty acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of		vi^{s}	ix^{d} ob.
John Sayer holdeth freely sixty-nine acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of		xxj^{s}	iiij^{d}
Thomas Willard holdeth freely a messuage and five and forty acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of ..		xij^{s}	iii^{d}
The tenant of forty acres of free land in Sharenden late Richard Weston's by the rent of		x^{s}	viij^{d}
Mr. English holdeth freely a messuage and eighty acres of land in Sharenden by the rent of		v^{s}	xj^{d}
John Goldsmith holdeth freely an house and seaven acres of land in Rotherfeild by the rent of			xij^{d}
—— Butcher holdeth freely one acre of land in Sharenden by the rent of			vj^{d}
Stephen Parker gent holdeth freely an acre and a halfe of land called Pooles by the rent of			iij^{d}
Herbert Morley, Esqre. holdeth freely certen land called Winters by the rent of		ij^{s}	xj^{d}
The totall of the aforesaid rents is p. ann.	iiij£	vij^{s}	xj^{d} ob.

Coppieholders of Inheritance.

Redd ix^{s} herr^{t} (herriot)	Simon Rumney holdeth by Coppy a messuage and one acre of land in Sharenden worth besides the present rent p. ann.	iiij£	
Redd ij^{s} vj^{d} herr^{t}.	Thomas Weston holdeth by coppy nine acres of land in Sharenden worth besides the present rent p. ann...	iij£	
Redd v^{s} iiij^{d} herr^{t}.	The heirs of Thomas Sayer holdeth by Coppy a toft and nine acres of land besides ye present rent p. ann...	vj£	x^{s}
Redd ij^{s} herr^{t}.	John Tyehurst holdeth by Coppy six acres of land in Sharenden besides the present rent p. ann.		xl^{s}
	John Goldsmith holdeth by Coppy seaven Acres of land in Rotherfeild worth besides the present rent per ann.		xlvj^{s} viij^{d}
The totall of the Coppyhold rent is p. ann.			xxiij^{s} vj^{d}

Memorandums.

There is a Court Baron belonging to the said Mannor of Sharenden kept at the Mannor House at the will of the Lord.

All the tenants of the said Mannor are to (do) suite and service when the Lord kepes his Court as aforesaid.

The ffreholders of the said Mannor doe pay for reliefe upon descent or allienac̃on one years rent of Assize.

The Coppyholders of the said manno^{r} doe pay arbitrary fines for admittance vpon descent or allienac̃on and vsually betweene one and two years. Improved value of their Coppyholds.

The herriotts payable both by the ffreeholders and Coppyholders for their severall and respective lands tenem^{ts} and hereditaments are the best beast the benefitt whereof to the Lord is comprized in the value of the proffitts of Courts aforesaid.

The total value of the rents of assize together with the proffitts of Courts aforesaid amounteth together vnto the yearly value of vj£ xj^{s} j^{d} ob.

Certaine dry Rents belonging to the said manno^{r} to the late Vicar's Chorall of the Cathedrall Church of Chichester.

The tennant of the Manno^{r} of Wiston in the Rape of Lewes in the Countie of Sussex payeth ye yearely rent of xiij^{s} iiij^{d}.

The tennant of certaine lands in West Wittering late Scarvells in the Rape of Chichester in the countie aforesaid doe pay the yearlie rent of iij^{s} iiij^{d}.

(One of ye Vicar's Choralls Mr. Hunt, a receiver of their rents.)
The totall of the said Rents are p. Ann. xiij^{li} viij^{d}.

WILLIAM EDEN
BEN. OKESHOTT
THO. NEWBERRY
JOHN SMITH
} Survaye^{rs}.

Sussex. The Mannor of Coombe cum Gregories. The quitt rents due to the lord of the said Mannor from the ffreeholders wthin the parishes of Wadhurst and Mayfeild holding of the said Mannor by free soccage tenure and payable at Micas only are p. Ann. xxj^{li}.

The Courts baron fines and amerciam^{ts} of Court Herriotts reliefes and all other proffitts and p'quisites within the said Mannor are estimated commnibus Annis x^{li}.

Freeholders.

Richard Taylor holdeth freely a certaine farme and lands in Mayfeild contayning by estimac̃on 80 ^{ti} acres	iij^{li}	iiij^{d}
Thomas Young holdeth freely seaventeen acres of land in Wadhurst by rent of	ij^{s}	
William Cruttall holdeth freely certaine lands called Wilcocks Gibbs in Wadhurst contayning by estimac̃on one hundred acres by the rent of	x^{s}	iiij^{d}
Thomas Manser holdeth freely a tenement and one acre of land in Wadhurst contayning by estimac̃on one hundred acres		iiij^{d}
The total of the aforesaid rents is	xvi^{s}	

Memorandums.

There is a Court Baron belonging to the said Mannors of Combe and Gregories kept at the will of the Lord.

The said Mannors have been ioned together—one court kept for them both at once under the stile of the Mannor of Coombes cum Gregories in regard of the fewenesse of the tennants to either of them.

There are releifes payable by the said tennants upon every descent or allienation.

The herriotts payable by the tennants for their lands tenements and hereditaments are the best beast and the benefitt thereof to the Lord is comprehended in the value of the proffitts of Court.

Returned the 28th day of May, 1650.

WILLIAM EDEN
BENIAMINE OKESHOTT
JOHN SMITH
THOMAS NEWBERRY
} Survayo^{rs}.

Ex^{d}. Ra. Hall.
Regist. deputat.

Indorsed 'Sussex. The Mannor of Sharenden.'" *

* Suss. Arch. Colls., Vol. XXV.

In 10th James I. (1612) all the clergy in certain deaneries were called up to register the arms they could furnish. There is a paper in the British Museum, inscribed,

"A rolle of the severall Armors and furniture with theire names of the clergie within the Arch Deaconry of Lewes and Deanery of South Malling with the Deanery of Battell in the County of Sussex, Rated and appoynted the 11th day of March A.D. 1612, by the Right Reverend Father in God, Samuell, Bishoppe of Chichester."

Amongst other names may be seen—

"Maighfeld, Mr. Jo. Lucke, Vicar, a corselet furnished.
"Wadhurst, Mr. Jo. Hackley, Vicar, a musquet furnished.
"Burwash, Mr. Rafe Smith, a musquet furnished.
"Heathfield, Mr. Reginald Burden, a corselet furnished." *

The Subsidy Roll of the 22nd James does not distinguish the different parishes, but gives all the inhabitants of Loxfield-Baker together; the names are as follows :—

"Mr. Jo. Maynard, pastor, Mr. Thomas Haughton, Mrs. Katherine Aynscombe and Thos. Aynscombe, gent., Mrs. Jane Stolyon, Richard Wemshurst, Thos. Westgate, Robert Martyn, John Relfe, Richard Marchant, Tho. Booreman, Richard Carpenter, Jo. Muddle, Jo. and Tho. Burges, Tho. Maynard, Tho. Moone, Will. Durrell, Esq., Jo. Dunmoll, Senr., William Johnson, gent., William Bryan, gent., William Courthopp, gent., Jo. Barham of Butt, Jo. Barham of Shoosmythes, Robert Winborne, gent., Jo. Saunders, Ed. Benge, Michael Throckmorton, Tho. Ballard, gent., Nicho. Barham, Tho. Saunders, Mrs. Burton, widow, Mrs. Maplesden, widow, Alice Sauders, widow, Anne Baker, widow, Nicholas Saunders, Tho. Kindgwoodd, Richard Marckwicke, Richard Weston, Thomas Lucke, Richard Lucke, Alex. Collin, Tho. Sheapherd, Will. Terry, Will. Barham, Lampkins, Jo. Wood, Peter Trice, Tho. Bate, Tho. Russell, Jo. Longley, Pennybridge, Andrew Skinner, Will. Yonge, Jo. Weston, for the heirs of Nich. Puxty's lands, Tho. Maynard, Jo. Lucke, Tho. Weston, Highfeld, widow, Crowhurst, Jo. Longley, Mousehall, Hugh Lucke, Tho. Packham, Will Maynard's wid., Gregory Sawyer, Richard Barham's wid., Widow Burd, and Jo. Burd.

Lessors: Tho. Sawyer, Mr. Stephen Panckhurst, Thos. Wickersham, Robert Relf.

Sessors: Thomas Daye, Richard Ballard, gent., Jo. Dunmoll, gent., Alex. Butcher.

Collector, THOMAS BURGES."

The total was £22 13*s.* 0*d.*, of which sum Stephen Panckhurst paid the highest amount; William Durrell and William Johnson come next on the list.

* Harl. MSS.; also mentioned in Burrell MSS.

CHAPTER XII.

Sir Henry Nevill, upon first coming into possession in 1596, held the lordship or manor of Mayfield in its entire state, consisting then of the Manor extending over Mayfield (Bibleham excepted), Wadhurst, and part of Lamberhurst; the Manor House or Palace of Mayfield, the advowsons, great tithes, and waste and woodlands, within the manor.

By an indenture of 14th August 1597, he sold to Thomas Aynscombe, Esq., all the waste lands in Mayfield, Wadhurst, and Lamberhurst (excepting such as were in the great thoroughfares through the three parishes, viz., from Lamberhurst and Bewlbridge to Sparrows Green, thence to Tidebrook and Ticehurst, and from Tidebrook to Rendhurst Wood, thence to Mark Cross, and the town of Mayfield; thence to Hadley Down and Duddesland, and from Mayfield to Argose Hill, and thence to Rotherfield). These waste lands, with the above exceptions, were thus vested in the Aynscombe family; and Thomas, the purchaser, died possessed of them in 1606, when they descended to his son, Thomas Aynscombe, who by a deed 11 February, 10 James (1613) sold a portion to Thomas Edwards of Faircrouch in Wadhurst, citizen and mercer of London, who appears to have held his courts for the said lands.

By another indenture 27 March, 1611, Thomas Aynscombe sold to William Courthope of Wadhurst, gent, another piece of waste or woodland in Buckling wood, part of that which his father purchased from Henry Nevill. The residue he died possessed of, and by will dated 1617 bequeathed his "wastes in the highways of Wadhurst and Mayfield" to his son Thomas, who died in 1649, leaving them also by will to his son Thomas Aynscombe, upon whose decease without issue in 1667, his brother, Henry Aynscombe became his heir.

By an indenture 16 August, 1597, Sir Henry Nevill (then Henry Nevill, Esq.) sold the Rectory of Wadhurst to Thomas Aynscombe, whose son by an indenture 29 March, 9 James (1612) sold it to William Fowle of Lightlands and Riverhall.

The advowson of Wadhurst was also sold by Nevill to Aynscombe,

and it continued in the latter family until Thomas Aynscombe by deed of gift, in or about the year 1668, conferred it on Wadham College, Oxford, which continues to present. It is recorded that this deed of gift was made in gratitude for the care and attention the only son of the donor had received at the college during an illness which terminated fatally.

By an indenture 6 May, 1598, Sir Henry Nevill sold to Sir Thomas May (then Thomas May, Esq., of The Franchise, Burwash) for the consideration of £6,387,

"all that the Manor of Mayfield and all houses etc. and all the glass and wainscott of the chief Manor House or mansion house of the said manor. All that late disparked Park and impaled ground commonly called Mayfield park in Mayfield aforesaid,* and all and every the messuages and all that the Rectory of Mayfield aforesaid, with all the glebe lands tythes oblations etc. together with the advowson right of patronage donation and free disposition of the Vicarage of Mayfield aforesaid, and all that the manor of Battersden, also Penny Bridge etc., except Frankham Park, the Rectory of Wadhurst, and the advowson of the Vicarage, other than the rent of £12 and other services reserved upon a grant made by the said Henry Neville by deed indented to Thomas Aynscombe, gent., George Charlton Clerk and William Turke, and except all grants of waste grounds copyhold lands by the said Henry to other persons in fee other than the rents and services, and except all other lands tenements and hereditaments that were parcel or reputed parcel of the copyhold lands or waste grounds of the said manor and heretofore granted by the said Henry to Thomas Aynscombe gent. other than the rents services and reliefs reserved thereupon and except all such common or pasture as was belonging or appertained to the manor of Penny Bridge in any of the waste grounds belonging to the Manor of Mayfield, and which rents reliefs services reserved upon the excepted lands tenements hereditaments etc. then the said Henry Neville grants to the said Thomas May his heirs and assigns for ever."

(Sir Henry Nevill died in 1615.)

Sir Thomas May was the father of the poet and historian of the Long Parliament, who, it has been said, was born at Mayfield in 1595. This could scarcely have been the case; his name, however, does not appear in the Burwash registers, though they contain entries of the birth of brothers born both before and after himself. He must certainly have lived at the Palace from early childhood to manhood. It is said, his mortification at not being appointed Poet Laureate, after the death of Ben Jonson, was the real cause of his breaking with the Court; certain it is, that either on this account or from

* There were two parks, those of Mayfield and Frankham.

political conviction his loyalty began to cool, and at the outbreak of the Civil Wars he associated himself with Sir Thomas Fairfax and the republican party. He was appointed secretary to the Parliament, when he was commissioned to write his "History of the Long Parliament." This noted book bears evidence of its being by no means a labour of love. Speaking of the Civil Wars in his Preface, he truly speaks of these scenes of blood as a "Warre as cruel, as unnatural, that hath produced as much rage of swords, as much bitterness of pens, both publike and private, as was ever knowne." The book brought him into great disfavour with the Royalists, who afterwards wreaked their spite upon his bones. He died at the age of fifty-five, and met his death in a curious manner, having tied the strings of his nightcap so tightly under his chin that suffocation ensued. By order of Parliament he had a magnificent public funeral in Westminster Abbey, and a large monument was erected over his grave. However, soon after the Restoration, his remains were dug up and flung into a pit near St. Margaret's Church, and his monument was also cast aside.

Long before the outbreak of the war, however, Sir Thomas May's widow and son had sold his lands at Mayfield to John Baker of Mayfield, gent., by indenture dated November 17, 1617, and from this period the Palace, or Mayfield Place as it came to be called, was the chief residence of the Baker family.

East Sussex was not much affected by the Great Rebellion, but it seems to have taken chiefly the side of the Parliament. The principal inhabitants of Mayfield certainly did so. When we consider that Mr. John Baker was appointed by the Parliament as one of the sequestrators for Sussex; that Mr. Maynard, the vicar, who was presented by Mr. Baker, belonged to the Assembly of Divines, and preached a sermon at St. Margaret's, Westminster by order of the Long Parliament; that Mr. Aynscombe of Aylwins was married to a daughter of John Goring; and that Mr. Herbert Morley, the celebrated general of the Parliamentary troops, owned land and ironworks at Bibleham, it will be seen how great must have been the influence for that side.

Papers in the Public Record Office show that any Sussex Royalists' estates were at the mercy of the sequestrators appointed in April, 1643. Among those appointed for Sussex were, Sir Thomas Pelham, Anthony Stapley, Herbert Morley, Thomas Whitfield, John Baker, Herbert Hay (nephew of Colonel Morley) and Herbert Springate. It was ordered that the estates of all persons who had raised, or should raise, arms against the Parliament, or had assisted in any way the King's

forces, should have their lands seized and sequestered. Many compounded for their estates, but no names from the immediate neighbourhood of Mayfield are mentioned among these. (The Lord John Abergavenny paid £531 5*s*. 9*d*.) The pardon of Mr. John Baker for his furtherance of the cause of the Parliament, from Charles II., sealed with the Great Seal, is in the possession of the vicar.

Evelyn, in his memoirs, makes mention of his endeavours to procure a similar pardon, of which large numbers were issued, for his old friend and schoolfellow, Herbert Morley.

The Morleys, originally from Morley in Lancashire, had been settled for a century and a half in Sussex. Thomas Morley, who died in 1558, had worked an iron furnace in Bibleham, of which his descendant, Herbert Morley, died possessed. He succeeded as a minor to the estate of Glynde, and when he was only in his 26th year, he became member for Lewes, and was one of the first to accept a commission and raise a regiment in Sussex, as having greater influence for the Parliament than anyone else in that part of the county. Although he was present at the King's trial, he abstained from putting his name to the death warrant; and thus earned a subsequent exemption from the general fate of the regicides; for though, at the Restoration, they were all exempted from pardon, he, not having taken part in the act of the King's death, was allowed by paying £1,000 to purchase security for the rest of his life. He died in peaceful possession of his Sussex estates, and lies buried in Glynde Church. His only son married a daughter of Sir John Trevor, a grand-daughter of John Hampden, and by this alliance the Glynde property came to the Trevors, and through them to the Brand family, whose head is Lord Hampden.

May, in his history of the Long Parliament (entitled by himself "A Breviary of the History of the Parliament of England"), says in Chapter VI., headed, "A brief Relation of the condition of divers counties in England when the Parliament Ordinance for the Militia and the King's Commission of Array were put in execution":—

"Those in Kent who favoured the King's party and Commission of Array, were not a number considerable enough to bring that county into any combustion. The gentlemen which adhered to the Parliament used so great a care and industry in settling the Militia, in disarming those few (but great) Papists that were amongst them, in raising arms, and taxing themselves at high rates for the service of the Parliament, that they not only preserved their own County in quiet, but gave great assistance to the Parliament armies in other places. . . . The Eastern end of Sussex (it being a long and narrow county, lying for many miles

upon the sea) stood firm to the Parliament, and were very industrious in settling of the Militia, by which means they were so happy as to preserve themselves in peace and quietness. But the western part of that county, by means of many Revolted Members of the Parliament, who resided there, together with many of their allies and friends, was, at the first, in some distraction, though it continued not very long."

From papers which are in the possession of the descendants of Samuel Jeake of Rye,* we find another incidental notice of Mayfield and the Morleys during the Civil Wars.

Among them are letters from the Rev. John Coulton, Chaplain in the Parliamentary army, under Captain William Morley.

He had a constant correspondence with his "verey loving freind Mr. Samuell Jacques" in which the family of Rolfe or Relfe has frequent mention. One of his letters runs thus :—

"Most deare loveing and kind freind and brother in Jesus Christ; my most dutyfull love unto you all in generall, and unto yourselfe in perticular salutation. In this time of my retyrement I hold it my duty to give you an acompt of our proceedings since last I saw you. That Saturday I came from Rie, I marched to Robert Rolfe's house at Mayfeild wheare I quartered all night. The next day we marched to Portslaid, and there quartered. On Christmas Day we came to Shoarham, and about eleaven a'clock serjant Rolfe shott off a carbine, and withall his thumbe. I stayed with him all Tuesday, and saw him in good posture, and soe I went to my colours, and after some time spent in seekeing them, I found them at Arundell with all our regiment upon the guard, it being our turne to be the out guard on the Comon. Soe we remained on Berey Hill all that night, and the next day about 6 a'clocke we sent out a party of horse, myselfe being one and Thos. Carew another, to discover Hopton, wheare we found him at Petersfeild seven miles beiond Medhurst, we faceing his scouts, and soe safely returned (close by theire quarters all alonge) all of us verey safe, our God be praised. We gave inteligence to our generall; myselfe lead on the party; the returne of us was the next day about 10 a'clock; ourselves and horse had no meat but a peece of bread and cheese, and our horses while we eate it had hay not half an houres time. Prise your fireside comforts, you know not the hardships of warr, nay though it be in a flowing county as in Sussex. These things being thus, true nuse came that in Hampshire Coll. Newton had taken 800 prisoners, 140 horse, and killed 100 of Hopton's men: good nuse and true nuse. A little before, Sir William took 845, killed 120, 300 horse, and brought them into ffarnam Castle from Olton, all these of Hopton's 4000 men, as is said; he had noe more. The enemy attemted Bramber bridge, but our brave Carleton and Evendon with his dragoones and our

* Suss. Arch. Colls., Vol. IX.

Coll. horse welcomed them with drakes and musketts, sending some 8 or 9 men to hell (I feare), and one trooper to Arundel Castle prisoner, and one of Capt Evenden's men to Heaven; all this while the enemy held the Castle, and a party seised Whiston House within a mile of Bramber bridge. But att laste Sir William comeing and tooke Arundel Towne with 140 prisoners to boote, whearof 60 beare armes for the Parliament, the rest are sent to London. Our Wiston Cavaileirs left the house, and fled for theire lives, and in theire march at Findon left 3 carts loaden with plunder, the which we with a party of 12 horse we fetched home, and refreshed our weary souldiers. . . . We have fortified Arundell as strong as ever you saw a thing. It is worth noteing to see how our Easterne gentry come to comfort our pouer Collonell, and to shew theire thankfullness to our noble Waller. I shall write theire number in figures nott thousands, except three 000 ciphers will doe it. Thus Christian brethren you se Jacob's God never said to you: "Seeke ye me in vaine." You se answered praiers comes home crowding. . . . I pray you remember him in your praiers whoe hath vowed himself an orator for you. I cannott omitt one thing. Imediately after the yeilding of the Castle, 3 holonders rune aground, a Dunkirk man of war richly laden with Hollands and lockrams and threed plush with 24 piece of ordnance. The holonder perceiveing us neare (it was 3 miles from Shoarham) they onely desired the ship and gave Sir William Waller the prize, the which they have and now carts are carrying it to Arundell. Its hoped the generall will furnish Arundell Castle with gunns, butt this mercy made our men break sabbath, and soe instead of thankfulness for the Castle, it proved a snaire unto us to prophane the sabbath. Thus have I given you an acompt of what I promised you; my paper bids me break of. Commend me to all my deare friends and I shall forever rest your brother in Christ

"JOHN COULTON.

"Cler under Captaine William Morley. Ffrom my quarters at South lanceing, January 8th, 1634."

There was a great scarcity of small coin at this period. On the accession of James I. leaden tokens among tradespeople must have been pretty general. Before 1613, several schemes were proposed for coining small money (farthing tokens) in copper, until Lord Harrington obtained a grant for the issue of royal tokens; these appear to have been issued by several succeeding patentees. On March 1st, 1634, royal farthing tokens were directed to be made "with such a distinction of brass as will make them to be known from all others, and thereby prevent the people from being deceived by counterfeits." The great number issued and the many imitations of them at last put a stop to their currency. In the reign of Charles I. the troubled state of the kingdom prevented the government from paying proper attention to the coinage, and the great need of small

change caused private tradesmen to issue their own tokens. No pieces of this description appear to have been put in circulation earlier than about 1648 ; the yearly issue gradually increased up to the year 1672, when they were forbidden by royal proclamation. Two tradesmen of Mayfield had dealings on a large enough scale to warrant the issue of their own tokens. One of these was William Weston, whose coins have his name and the words "The Grocers Arms" on the one side, and "In Mayfield, 1667," on the other. The second token was Clement Read's. His halfpennies bear his name and a wheat sheaf on the one side, and the words "Of Mayfield, 1652, C.V.R." on the other. The vicar has specimens of these coins, and very likely there may be others in the parish, whose possessors may be much puzzled as to what these old halfpennies and farthings can be. Clement Read seems to have been a man of considerable importance in the parish ; he was churchwarden for many years when Mr. Maynard was vicar, and a volume published of Mr. Maynard's sermons was dedicated to some of the Baker family, to Clement Read (who married a Miss Baker), and other parishioners.

CHAPTER XIII.

AFTER the Restoration, it is probable that a period of peaceful prosperity followed for Mayfield, when all its principal houses were the homes of iron-masters, who were large employers of skilled labour. There are therefore no stirring events to chronicle, but the history of the iron industry in Sussex is full of interest.

Many people are aware of the fact that at one time there were extensive iron-works in this county, and that there were forges in the parish of Mayfield; but so few traces remain of this great industry, that it is difficult to realize in the least the busy scene that this part of the country must for some centuries have presented.

The strata producing iron ore lie in the central portion of the Wealden formation, in the vast beds of sandstone called the "Forest Ridge," and known as the "Hastings sand." The beds run in a N.W. direction from Hastings, by Ashburnham, Crowborough, Ashdown Forest, Tilgate Forest, and St. Leonard's Forest—the tract formerly covered by the great forest of Anderida.

The earliest period at which Sussex iron was worked is unknown. That the Romans had workings was first conclusively proved by Dr. Prince of Crowborough and the Rev. E. Turner in 1844. Dr. Prince says in a letter to the writer, dated Feb. 16, 1895 :—

"So long ago as 1844 I was one day riding along the road from Buxted to Crowborough, when I saw a man emptying a cart-load of cinders upon the wayside, and as they rolled out of the cart, I noticed that some pottery was mixed therein. I asked the man to give me a few pieces, as I thought they had a rather unusual appearance. Before going home I took them to a well-known antiquary, the late Rev. E. Turner of Maresfield, who at once pronounced them to be Samian ware. He at once became very interested in the find, and arranged with me that I should drive him to the spot on the next morning, and this arrangement was carried out. I then took him to the field (on Old Land Farm close to Buxted, but in Maresfield parish) where some men were digging these cinders, and we had not been there long before a Roman coin was turned up,

which was a very important clue. As my time was wholly occupied with my profession, I left further investigation wholly in the hands of Mr. Turner."

Mr. Turner published an account of this find in Vol. II. of Sussex Arch. Colls. The bed of "cinders" (refuse from the furnaces, largely used for road mending) covered several acres, and was, in places, as deep as ten feet. Many remains of a Roman settlement were uncovered. A Roman grave, with broken pottery had been laid bare before the spot was visited by Dr. Prince and Mr. Turner; and foundations of buildings had been discovered about two years previously. So numerous were the remains of Roman pottery that scarcely a barrow was filled with cinders that did not contain many fragments. There were also coins and other articles, which were afterwards exhibited at a meeting of the Sussex Archæological Society. The Romans—here at all events—seem to have been imperfectly acquainted with the art of smelting, for these cinders contained a far greater proportion of metal than those of other beds in the neighbourhood, and were therefore more valuable for road-making. At Framfield, at Chiddingly, and at Seddlescombe, Roman remains have been found in cinder beds. At Seddlescombe, the cinder bed itself was only discovered by accident; for all knowledge of iron-works having existed there had been lost. It is not at all improbable that the iron of Sussex was wrought before the Romans set foot on the soil; for the inhabitants of Britain must have been well acquainted with the metal. Not only do we hear of the scythes attached to the wheels of their war chariots, but these also could not have been made without the use of iron tools. Cæsar mentions that iron rings of a certain weight were used as money by the people, and that the iron of which they were made was produced in the maritime regions. These "maritime regions" were in all probability the wealds of Kent and Sussex. History is silent on the subject as to whether the Saxons continued the works upon the old sites, unless we accept the legends of St. Dunstan and his forge. The trade, if in existence here at the time of Domesday Book, must have been unimportant, since no mention is made in it of Sussex iron, though the iron-works of other counties are noticed.

The earliest known record of the iron trade in these parts is a grant made by King Henry III. to the town of Lewes. This grant, which is dated 1266, empowers the inhabitants to raise tolls for the repair of the town walls after the battle. Every cart laden with iron from the weald for sale paid one penny toll, and every horse-load of iron half that sum. From that period we have constant notices,

however slight, of the history of the manufacture. In 1290 a payment was made for the iron-work of the monument of Henry III. in Westminster Abbey to Master Henry of Lewes. In 1300, according to the historian Stowe, the ironmongers of London made a complaint to the Lord Mayor, that the smiths of the weald brought in irons for wheels which were much shorter than they ought, according to custom, to be, to the great scandal and loss of the whole trade of ironmongers, and required a remedy, which was granted accordingly. In the thirteenth year of Edward II. Peter de Walsham, sheriff of Surrey and Sussex, made a provision of horse-shoes and nails of different sorts for the use of the army sent against the Scots. The number furnished on this occasion was 3,000 horse-shoes, and 29,000 nails, and the expense of their purchase from various places within the sheriff's jurisdiction, and their delivery in London, was £14 13*s.* 10*d.* Perhaps the oldest existing specimen produced by our foundries is an iron grave slab in Burwash Church, which has on it a cross and the inscription—"Orate P[ro] Annema Jhone Colins." The lettering is Lombardic, and is probably of the fourteenth century. The so-called relics of St. Dunstan at Mayfield, which were at one time kept in the church, are now at the convent, with the exception of the hammer, which was lost at the time of the restoration of the buildings. The hammer was an undoubted specimen of mediæval work. The anvil and tongs are considered by antiquaries to be of later dates. The massive handrail of the old stone staircase which was removed, was another specimen of very early manufacture. The iron monumental slabs in the pavement of the church are none of them earlier than the seventeenth century.

It has generally been considered that the first iron cannon cast in England was made at Huggett's furnaces in Buxted and Mayfield in 1543. An old rhyme commemorates the fact that

> "Master Huggett and his man John
> They did cast the first cannon,"

but Professor J. Starkie Gardner, in his paper read before the Society of Antiquaries, and published in Vol. LVI. of "Archæologia," shows pretty conclusively that an earlier date must be given. He says:—

> "As a fact, nothing trustworthy as to the first invention or introduction of cannon into Europe is known, but its earliest recorded use is by the English, who appear to have employed it in the invasion of Scotland under Edward III. in 1327, at the siege of Cambray 1338, and at Tournay a year later. At Quesnoy, 1339–40, Edward's engines, with powder and wildfire, are noticed in the French 'Chronicle of London.'"

It is only in the latter year that the Moors are heard of in connection with cannon, when the Sultans of Fez and Granada brought it on the field of battle for the first time, an example followed six years later by Edward at Cressy.

The Moorish ordnance is described as being constructed of longitudinal wrought-iron bars, bound by transverse hoops. The guns used by Edward were outwardly of similar construction, but about the oldest English guns now extant show the very remarkable addition of cast-iron inner chambers. Two early and interesting specimens exhibiting this peculiarity were found in the Sussex iron district; and, as coals are not carried to Newcastle, we must believe that they were Sussex productions. The oldest cannon in the Rotunda at Woolwich, brought from Battle Abbey, is traditionally believed to have been taken from the moat of Bodiam Castle, which, like Battle itself, is in the heart of the iron country. This gun, capable of throwing stone balls of 160 lb. weight, is a breach-loading mortar, such as were used in sieges early in the fifteenth century, as in that of Rouen in 1418. It is officially described in the catalogue of the Museum of Artillery as "at least as old as the earlier part of the fifteenth century. The interior is of cast-iron, and probably one of the earliest known specimens of iron in that form."

Another remarkable ancient gun stood on Eridge Green, in the parish of Frant, in the midst of some of the chief foundries in Sussex, and is described in "Archæologia."*

It possesses a polygonal cast-iron chamber, and if not, as tradition has it, the first cannon produced in England, is at least one of the earliest examples remaining. These guns afford positive evidence that casting was not merely in the air in Sussex quite at the beginning of the fifteenth century, but had progressed from the initial stage, that of casting simple solid bodies, to the advanced process of core casting. Wrought iron, as sole material, may have preceded the composite guns just described by perhaps even three or four score years, and proved fairly satisfactory for the purpose, but it was far otherwise with the projectiles. Iron shot were from the earliest times the desiderata sought by gunners, for lead was too soft, bronze too costly, and stone, even granite, too brittle, at least for siege operations. Wrought spherical balls could only be produced, and that with great labour, for guns of small calibre. Specimens of these up to an 18-pounder are preserved at the Woolwich Rotunda.

* Vol. X., 472.

Many combinations were resorted to to obtain the resisting properties of iron without the costly process of forging it in solid balls, such as lead balls strengthened with iron, and stone balls diced and bound with iron bands. The production of wrought-iron cannon balls must indeed have been extremely limited, for even if hammered direct from the bloom while still hot, the difficulty of cutting the mass into pieces of the right weight, and working it into spheres of the right diameter, must have been very great. The necessity of some labour-saving appliance, such as a gauge or mould into which the heated mass could be driven or squeezed, would be patent to any hammerman set to the task. The simple and easy process of pouring molten instead of squeezing pasty metal into the mould, could not under such conditions remain long undiscovered, and once known, its enormous practical advantages, coupled with the large demand for shot, would have rapidly introduced the process of casting into all the iron-works of Sussex.

Ulrich Beham of Memminghem is said to have cast balls of lead and iron in 1388. Probably shot were cast in Sussex at a much earlier date. The once universally accepted statement that cast-iron shot were unknown in France or England until 1514 is quite baseless. Chroniclers seldom speak of them, it is true, unless they were either stored in enormous quantities, or of such unusual size as to excite comment, like those weighing up to 5 cwt. each, made for Louis XI., or some seen in France by Sir R. Guylford, Master of the Ordnance to Henry VII., for a siege piece two feet in diameter, and a "shot of yeron xxviij ynches aboute." There is, however, no reference to cannon shot in connection with Sussex until much later dates, while in 1523, as mentioned by Lord Dillon,* the best founder of cannon shot in Spain was sent by Charles V. to Henry VIII. Specimens of the solid shot of Henry VIII., up to 65-pounders, have been recovered from the Mary Rose, which sank in 1545.

We find Henry in 1543, on the eve of his last French and Scottish wars, covenanting with a Sussex founder for the production of cast-iron cannon at £10 per ton. This was Ralphe Hogge, or Huggett,† before mentioned, whose furnaces were between Mayfield and Buxted. His rebus on his dwelling-house at Buxted still stands. His family was for two or three generations rewarded with Government appointments. The King's most famous gun-

* "Archæologia," LI., 227.

† The name of Huggate appears in the Mayfield Register of the year 1581; it is spelt Hoget in a subsidy list of the inhabitants of Mayfield in 1523.

founders, Peter Baude, a Frenchman, Arcanus de Cesena, an Italian, Van Cullen, a German, and the English Owens and Johnsons were despatched to the scene of operations in the Weald. Magnificent bronze guns of Baude, Arcanus, and the Owens are in the Tower, Woolwich, and elsewhere, and from the appearance of a much corroded gun at Woolwich, dredged in the Medway, the cast guns of either metal appear to have been similarly ornamented. The John of the rhyme may have been John Owen, who, with his brother, has also been credited with the invention of iron cannon. John Johnson remained with Hogge, "succeeding and exceeding his master in this his art of casting ordnance, making them cleaner, and to better perfection." Among the State Papers is a petition from Ralphe Hogge ("Manufacturer of guns and shot for the Ordnance Office") dated January, 1574, to the Council, complaining of the infringement of the patent granted him by the Queen, for the sole exportation of Ordnance; whereupon a return was procured on Feb. 15th following (No 18), giving a list of the owners of iron-works in Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. The chief men were summoned before the Council, and from the others bonds were taken, under a penalty of £2,000, not to found or sell ordnance without a licence from the Queen. Included in the list are the following names of Mayfield founders: Sir Thomas Gresham, 1 furnace in Mayfelde. Isted, 1 fordg in Mayfelde (probably Richard Isted of More House, Mayfield). Thomas Isted of Mayfelde. Nicholas Fowle of Mavill (Mayfield) for furnes and forge in Wadhurst. Thomas Ellis of Biblesam (Bibleham).*

In defiance of these measures, however, the exportation of Sussex cannon went on; so in 1587 the Earl of Warwick, Master of the Ordnance, despatched "a gentleman of his, one Mr. Blincoe," into Sussex, to summon all the gun-founders of the county up to London, to understand his pleasure respecting their further continuance of the manufacture. "Henry Nevil (of Frant and Mayfield, considered the chief Sussex ironmaster), and the rest of that occupation," obeyed the summons, and the matter was referred to the arrangement of the Deputy-Master of the Ordnance and Mr. Blincoe. The result was, that a fixed quantity of cannon should be cast annually "for the necessary provision of our own navigation," a certain proportion being allowed to each founder. It was also stipulated that no ordnance should be sold except in the city, and not even there but to "such merchants as my lord should name."

* "Supplementary Notices of Sussex Iron-works," M. A. Lower. Vol. III., Suss. Arch.

Notwithstanding these regulations, Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, writes a letter on August 8th, 1589, to the Justices of Lewes Rape, complaining of their neglect in these words :—

"Their lordshippes doe see the little regard the owners of furnaces and the makers of these peeces have of their bondes, and how it importeth the State that the enemy of her Majesty should not be furnished out of the lande with ordnance to annoye us."

The Lord Treasurer goes on to direct the magistrates to enforce the regulations of the Master of the Ordnance. Another letter from the same officer to the justices of the three eastern rapes, dated 6th October, 1590, directs them to "straighten restraints of making shott and ordnance," and to take bonds of £1,000 each of every furnace owner, and also to forward their bonds and a list of their names with all convenient speed.

Every age had lessened the limits of the once great forest of Anderida. Up to a certain period the destruction of timber for fuel for the furnaces had been useful, as it cleared the land for agricultural purposes, but at last the supply of wood diminished. The noblest families, such as the Ashburnhams, Pelhams, Nevills, Sidneys, Sackvilles, Howards, Gages, and others, turned ironmasters, and cut down the old timber which surrounded their stately homes. Humbler families waxed rich, and founded families; and to these ironmasters we owe many of the beautiful old timbered houses in the neighbourhood. As early as 1543 it became necessary to enact that

"no wood shall be converted into pasture; that, in cutting coppice woods at twenty-four years' growth or under, there shall be left standing and unfelled, for every acre, twelve standils or storers or oak, or in default of so many, then of elm, ash, asp, or beech; and that, if the coppice be of under fourteen years' growth, it shall be enclosed from cattle for six years, provided always . . . that this act do not extend or be prejudicial to any of the lords or owners of the woods or woodlands growing or being within any of the towns, parishes or places commonly called or known to be within the wilds of the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, other than to the common woods growing or being within any of the said Wilds . . ."

A series of similar Acts succeeded. One of them, dated 1585, rehearses :—

"Whereas by the over great negligence or number of ironworks which have been, and yet are, in the weilds of Sussex, Surrey and Kent, it is thought that the great plenty of timber which hath grown in those

parts hath been greatly decayed and spoiled, and will in short time be utterly consumed and wasted if some convenient remedy be not timely provided," and therefore forbids "the erection of any manner of iron-mills, furnace, finery, or bloomary for the making or working of any manner of iron or iron metal," except upon ancient sites.

The Sussex iron trade reached its greatest extent in the seventeenth century.

The number of mills and furnaces had increased yearly in spite of all these statutes limiting their extension, and the waste of timber was again brought before Government. In 1636 Charles I. granted a commission to Sir D. Cunningham, Bart., Christopher Lewknor, Esq., and others, for its better preservation. Several suits touching the offences of felling trees and underwood at unsuitable times of year, and other similar breaches of law, were pending in the Court of Star Chamber, and the duty imposed on the Commissioners was to "treat and compound" with the offenders, and to levy for the King's use such sums as they should think fit. The commission was dated at Canbury, 19th August, 1536. On the 14th of October following, an office "to be for ever continued" was established for the better management of the iron trade, and the King appointed

"John Cupper and Grimbald Pauncefoote, gentlemen, surveyors of all ironworks and of all woods to be used and employed thereat, and for the surveying and making of iron with divers stamps or marks, distinguishing the several kinds."

On the 29th July, 1637, by an Order in Council, these regulations were put in force, and very stringent methods were adopted for the rectification of the evils complained of.

The mode of making iron in Sussex in the seventeenth century is detailed by John Ray the naturalist, who says he had the account of the whole process from Sir Walter Burrell, one of the chief ironmasters. It is as follows :—

"The manner of the iron work at the furnace.

"The iron mine lies sometimes deeper, sometimes shallower in the earth, from 4 to 40 feet and upward.

"There are several sorts of mines, some hard, some gentle, some rich, some coarser.

"The ironmasters always mix different sorts of mine together, otherwise they will not melt to advantage.

"When the mine is brought in, they take small coal (charcoal) and lay a row of it, and upon that a row of mine, and so alternately, one above another, and setting the coal on fire, therewith burn the mine.

"The use of this burning is to molify it, that so it may be broke in

small pieces; otherwise if it should be put into the furnace as it comes out of the earth, it would not melt, but come away whole. Care also must be taken that it be not too much burned, for then it will loop, *i.e.* melt and run together in a mass. After it is burnt they beat it into small pieces with an iron sledge (hammer) and then put it into the furnace (which is before charged with coals), casting it upon the top of the pole, where it melts and falls into the hearth in the space of about twelve hours, more or less, and then it runs into a sow.

"The hearth or bottom of the furnace is made of sandstone and the sides round to the height of a yard or thereabout: the rest of the furnace is lined up to the top with brick. When they begin upon a new furnace they put fire for a day or two before they begin to blow.

"Then they blow gently and increase by degrees, till they come to the height in ten weeks or more.

"Every six days they call a *Founday*, in which space they make ten ton of iron, if you divide the whole sum of iron made by the foundays; for at first they make less in a founday, at last more.

"The hearth, by the force of the fire continually blown, grows wider and wider, so that at first it contains as much as will make a sow of six or seven hundred pound weight; at last it will contain so much as will make a sow of Two thousand pound. The lesser pieces of one thousand pound, or under, they call pigs.

"Of twenty-four loads of coal, they expect eight tons of sows. To every load of coals, which consists of eleven quarters, they put a load of mine, which contains eighteen bushels.

"A hearth, ordinarily, if made of good stone, will last forty foundays, that is forty weeks, during which time the fire is never let go out. They never blow twice upon one hearth, though they go upon it not above five or six foundays. The cinder-like scum swims upon the melted metal in the hearth, and is let out once or twice before a sow is cast."

The manner of working the iron at the Forge or hammer.

"In every Forge or *Hammer*, there are two fires at least; the one they call the *Finery*, the other the *Chafery*.

"At the Finery, by the working of a hammer they bring it into *Blooms* and *Anconies*, thus:

"The sow they at first roll into the fire, and melt off a piece of about three-fourths of a hundred-weight, which, so soon as it is broken off, is called a *Loop*. This loop they take out with their shingling tongs, and beat it with iron sledges upon an iron plate near the fire, that so it may not fall in pieces, but be in a capacity to be carried under the hammer, under which they then removing it, and drawing a little water, beat it with the hammer very gently, which forces cinders and dross out of the matter; afterwards by degrees drawing more water, they beat it thicker and stronger till they bring it to a *Bloom*, which is a four-square mass of about two feet long. This operation they call *Shingling the Loop*.

"This done, they immediately return it to the finery again, and after two or three heats and workings they bring it to an *Ancony*, the figure

whereof is, in the middle, a bar about three feet long, of that shape they entered the whole bar to be made of it; at both ends a square piece left rough to be wrought at the chafery.

"NOTE:—At the finery three load of the biggest coals go to make one ton of iron.

"At the chafery they only draw out the two ends, suitable to what was drawn out at the finery in the middle, and so finish the bar.

"One load of the smaller coals will draw out one ton of iron at the chafery.

"They expect that one man and a boy at the finery should take up, *i.e.* make or work, five or six tons in a week." *

Camden, in his "Britannia," says of Sussex:—

"Full of iron mine it is in sundry places, where for the making and foundering thereof there be furnaces on every side, and a huge deal of wood is yearly burnt; to which purpose, divers brooks in many places are brought to run in one channel, and sundry meadows turned into pools and waters that they might be of power sufficient to hammer mills, which, beating upon the iron, resound all over the places adjoining."

A later edition of this work, published in 1772, gives a more graphic account.

"A great deal of meadow ground is turned into ponds and pools for the driving of mills by the flashes, which, beating with hammers upon the iron, filled the neighbourhood round about, night and day, with continual noise. . . . Yet the iron here wrought is not in every place of like goodness, but generally more brittle that the Spanish iron, whether it be by nature or tincture and temper thereof. Howbeit commodious enough to iron-maisters, who cast much great ordnance thereof, and other things, to their no small gain. Now whether it be as gainful and profitable to the commonwealth may be doubted, but the age ensuing will be better able to tell you."

In choosing sites for the works, spots were sought where water power and ore were not far apart. Across a stream in a valley was thrown a great dam, called a "pond bay," with an outlet of masonry for the supply of water, by means of which the wheel connected with the machinery of the "hammer" or the furnace was set in motion.

The principal places in Mayfield at which the works were carried on were as follows:—

I. The Archbishop's land, afterwards the Palace Estate, in the woods below the vicarage. These were considerable works at a very

* Suss. Arch. Colls., Vol. II.

early period. Here were, in all probability, made the copings of Rochester Bridge, presented to that city early in the sixteenth century by Archbishop Warham. In an old map of the estate, the three ponds for the use of the ironworks measured, two of them over three acres, and another over one acre. In later years they were worked by the Baker family. The old furnace cottage, where their foreman of the works is said to have lived, has only recently been pulled down. The furnace stream close by retains its name, and on the left of the new bridge over it are the remains of one of the huge cinder heaps, which was laid open not long since for use in road making. Below this the great hammer pond must have filled the hollow which lies along the course of the stream, until it terminates on the further side of the old Tunbridge Wells road, close to the bridge. It was drained off finally when the bridge was built. The cannon at the convent was dug out of one of the cinder beds in these woods about the year 1824, and was placed on top of the porch of the Palace, then in ruins.

II. At Bibleham Forge. This was worked until 1778.*

III. At Hawksden, also in Bibleham quarter, worked by the Morleys. It was William Morley, a son of the iron-founder of Hawksden, who in 1567 built Glynde Place.

IV. At Bunghurst, worked by the Baker family, who also owned several other furnaces. The Bakers had also extensive works in Withyham, where they had landed property in Henry VIII.'s time.

V. At Huggett's before mentioned, adjoining those at Buxted.

VI. At Coushopley furnace upon Stonehouse Farm, on the boundary stream between Mayfield and Wadhurst. It belonged to the Penkhurst family, and afterwards to the Dykes. It was at work in 1707.

VII. On the Lower House or Aylwins Estate, where John Aynscombe in the reign of Henry VI. established the ironworks at

* In the British Museum there are some MS. money accounts of the ironworks belonging to the family of Pelham, afterwards Earls of Chichester (Additional MSS. 33,154–33,156). They extend from the year 1628 to 1716, and deal with Waldron Furnace, Bibleham Forge, and Brightling Forge, which were worked in common, the rough iron being supplied from the furnace to be worked up at the two forges. Unfortunately the accounts are not extensive enough to enable us to form an idea of the profits derived from the industry, being, in fact, for the most part, only the accounts rendered by the clerks or managers of the works. But they give some interesting details of the up-keep of the forges, and particularly of the large amount of wood which had to be cut and converted into charcoal in order to carry out the smelting operations.

Aylwins. In 1661 one of the family, Stephen Aynscombe, was in trouble for exporting iron ordnance.

There are traces of iron-works at Twitt's Farm and Merriam's Farm; and such names as Cinder Hill, Ordnance Farm, etc., remain as evidence of this industry. The Houghtons of the Middle House were also ironmasters, but which forge was worked by them is uncertain. The Middle House was afterwards purchased by the Groombridge branch of the Baker family. These Bakers also owned Hamsell Forge in Rotherfield parish. A curious inventory, taken in 1708 under an order of bankruptcy, of the goods at Hamsell Forge, is in the possession of the writer. It was by no means one of the most important iron-foundries of the county, but from it an idea can be gained of the amount of ordnance that must have been manufactured in the neighbourhood, as nearly half the founder's assets, which comprise household goods, are cast guns. It shows also that the price of cast cannon, for which Henry VIII. had paid £10 per ton, had fallen in the reign of Queen Anne to £5 per ton.

An inventory of the iron-works at Hamsel, Rotherfield, dated 1708.

"The Schedule or Inventory whereof mention is made in the Indenture annext Being the goods and chattells and effects of Robert Baker therein named.

	£.	s.	d.
Imprimis Nineteene Guns of Mr. Robert Baker's, q^{ty}. about 27 Tuns in the custody of James Felton Esq. lyeing in Woolwich Warren in Kent at £5 per Ton . . .	135	0	0
Item. Fifty Guns, q^{ty}. about 50 Tuns in the Custody of Mr. William Harison lyeing at Battell bridge wharf in Surrey at £5 p. Tun.	250	0	0
Item. Cash in his hands for other guns by him sold, about	40	0	0
Item. Two Entire Linsey beds, Two feather beds, two bolsters and four Blankets in the Custody of George Pescod and his wife lyeing at Sevenoakes in Kent and of John Harrison at Rotherfeild in Sussex . . .	5	10	0
Item. Thirteene gallon pots, 6 kettles q^{ty}. 2 gall. each, 2 pots q^{ty}. 12 gall. each, one pot q^{ty}. 9 gall., 2 pots q^{ty}. 7 gal. each, 1 pott q^{ty}. 5 gall., 7 skillets, q^{ty}. 3 quarts each, 25 pint skillets, 16 quart skillets, 42 skillets 3 pints each, 4 pot skillets q^{ty}. 3 quarts each, 5 pots q^{ty}. 3 gall. each, 6 pots q^{ty}. 3 quarts each, 3 pot skillets q^{ty}. 3 quarts each, 1 gall. skillet, 8 skillets q^{ty}. 3 pints each, 8 quart skillets, 5 pint skillets, and 22 Iron Backs q^{ty}. 5 cwt. weight in the custody of the said John Harrison lyeing at Rotherfeild af^{d}.	13	14	6

	£	s.	d.
Item. Six Tun and four hundred w^{t}. of square bar Iron at £10 p. Tun in the Custody of Alice Yateman lyeing at Caverlyes plaine in Tunbridge in Kent . . .	62	0	0
Item. One Iron plate sett ag^{t}. the Chimney q^{t}. 1 cwt. w^{t}., 1 sidesaddle, girt, bridle and whip, 1 side of an iron bar q^{ty}. 10 lb. weight, 1 iron furnace q^{ty}. 80 gall., 1 pewter Limback still (?) and bottome, 1 iron plate by the back doore in the custody of William Rabett at Birchden forge	3	8	6
Item. Cash in his hands for other goods sold by him at the s^{d}. Forge. Item. In the Iron house in the custody of the s^{d}. William Rabett. Ten halfe hundred weights, 9 boreing bars and a peice q^{ty}. 3 cwt. weight, 5 Ringers q^{ty}. 1 cwt. weight, 7 pair of forge tongs q^{ty}. 4 cwt., 3 grate bars, and a piece q^{ty}. 1 cwt., 2 bars and a piece q^{ty}. 1 cwt., one old anvill q^{ty}. 2 lbs., 2 iron hoops q^{ty}. 1¼ lb., a pr. of broome tongs q^{ty} ¼ cwt., 8 Hamer-heads, 2 gun-rods, 5 gunearthes, 3 gunstoppers, one iron shovell and Ladle, 7 bellow hookes, 2 Hamer plates, 4 iron wheeles belonging to the boweing carriage, 4 rung pins, 3 old chisles and 2 punches q^{ty}. 30 cwt., a piece of steel q^{ty} 4 lb., 2 hoes and an ax, 2 clapses for the boweing carriage, a pair of Rodes, 2 wrought sledges, 400 bellow nails, a pair of Smith's tongs, 3 drills, 2 furance bellow pipes, 2 Clamps and a piece of a boweing bar, 5 small rods, sevrall pieces of old iron, 2 old cast sledges, a large pair of forge scales and an iron hook belonging to them, and some old bellows leather	21	12	6
Item. In the fforge in the custody of the said William Rabett, 6 iron plates about the finery q^{ty}. 15 cwt., a loop plate q^{ty}. 4 cwt., an old anvill and a piece of a hamer and a sow taile q^{ty}. 10 cwt., 6 plates about the Chafing hearth we^{s} 12 cwt., 2 Smith's anvils, q^{ty}. 4¼ cwt., 3 solid shott q^{ty}. 3 cwt., sevrall pieces of cast iron about 2 cwt., a shell q^{ty}. 2 cwt. a vice, a large Sow q^{ty}. 16 cwt., ¼ cwt. of wrought iron, some plates under the Anvell q^{ty}. 5 cwt., 4 cast plates, q^{ty}. 10 cwt., 9 forge hamers, 4 forge anvels, 5 husts, a gudgen, severall shotts, 4 bars of wrought iron, a small gun, 4 bellow pips, 8 load of braises, 2 old coalwaines and a large ringer at the flood gates	60	12	10
Item. At Mr. Baker's furnace called Hamsell Furnace. A Vice, severall pieces of cast iron q^{ty}. 6 tuns, 11 iron plates q^{ty}. 1¼ cwt., a Sow q^{ty}. 15 cwt., 4 furnaces q^{ty}. 80 gall. each, 2 pr. of bellows, 2 slabs of iron q^{ty}. 80 cwt., 12 rings to mould pins in q^{ty}. 10 cwt., old timber for			

	£	s.	d.
moulding, 3 pullies, 3 old rops, 20 gun patterns for moulding and boards, 80 loads of coales (charcoal), 200 loads of mine, and 5 loads of Brayzes . . .	120	0	0
Item. In the furnace house Six chaires, a table, a desk with drawers, 5 bundle and a peice of iron rods, 2 rols of bellows leather, 8 peices of steele, a small kettle with bellow nailes, 10 glass bottles, 4 broken pots, a small pott, 2 iron beames, severall peicēs of old iron, a timber chaine, shovell and spade, 8 shaires, 4 pr. of andirons, 1 iron back, a pr. of pot hangers, fire shovell and tongs and lanthorn and 2 chests	46	6	2
(The inventory follows of the furniture "at Mr. Robert Baker's dwellinghous called Birchden," which brings up the total of his effects to the sum of £947 15*s.* 0*d.*			

The furnaces at Seddlescombe, belonging to the Farndens of Brickwell, were also worked by the Baker family, after the marriage of John Baker of "The Place" (or Palace), Mayfield, to Ruth, daughter and co-heiress of Peter Farnden.

The earlier firebacks made in the Weald were often of rough workmanship, with ornaments carved separately in the wood, and pressed haphazard fashion into the sand forming the mould. These slabs were frequently edged with a twist made by means of a stiffened rope, or twisted bars. According to Mr. Lower, one with this edge in the Museum at Lewes, bearing the initials H. N. on the impression of andirons in its centre, was made by Henry Nevill of Mayfield c. 1587. Another from a Mayfield foundry was deposited by Lady Dorothy Nevill at the South Kensington Museum. A fine one with the Baker arms on it is in the hall of the Middle House. This was sold at a sale of the effects of Miss Anne Baker, and was placed in the house opposite. It was again put up to auction many years later, and was bought by the present owner of the Middle House, who replaced it in its old position.

One of the oldest as well as finest firebacks belonged to the late Dr. Prince of Crowborough, bearing the royal arms and dating from the reign of Henry VII.

Professor Starkie Gardner says that backs decorated by movable stamps were, except in special cases, discontinued soon after 1649. A survival in the Brighton Museum with moulded edge bears a crown, fleurs-de-lis, pateræ, and rosettes with H. E. M. 1685. Plain backs with moulded edge and dates are not uncommon at this time.

The back cast from a single mould produces an entirely different effect from that cast from a number of smaller moulds, and necessi-

tates a higher order of design. Whether armorial or not, good designers and capable modellers were requisite, and, as a group, they thus represent an enormous advance in the artistic perception of the Wealden ironfounders or their employers. The effect produced from larger and bolder carvings than hitherto was certainly appreciated, and it is probable that from this time rival founders provided themselves with coats of arms carved locally, or under the direction of the founder, and expressly for reproduction, while those composed from small associated blocks began to fall into disuse. The royal arms of the Stuarts form an important group. The lions with crowned roses and thistles were probably designed to commemorate the accession of James, though they continued to be produced long after this event. An uncrowned copy found near Heathfield by Mr. Edward Hughes of that place (who has made many sketches of local firebacks) no doubt symbolised, as he supposes, the Commonwealth. Others bear equestrian portraits of both the Charleses, a little II. within the C. R. serving, at times, to distinguish them. Among private coats of arms, the crest, supporters, and coronet of the Earls of Exeter were found on two backs in houses at Mayfield by Mr. Hughes. According to the journal of the Rev. Giles Moore (printed in the Suss. Arch. Colls., I. 74), the value of a plate with arms was 10*s*.

Many may be found representing scenes from Scripture, and contemporary with these are a few with floral devices, one of which is at Sunny Bank. Later on a veritable mania for firebacks in the Dutch style set in, which differed radically from those that preceded them, in being very thin and light, and higher than wide, and in their swelling outlines and rich floral borders. The impress of Netherlandish art is unmistakable, even were an abundance of their counterparts not remaining in Holland and Belgium.

The andirons, brand irons, or dogs, are probably more modern in origin than the backs; none can be regarded as earlier than Henry VII., and the oldest dated examples, weighing 200 lb., from Cowdray, are of the year 1515.

The iron manufacture continued to flourish throughout the seventeenth century. At its commencement 140 furnaces were at work, and even in the year 1724 it was considered the chief industry of the county.

At this time was published Bugden's map of Sussex, showing the site of still existing iron-works. The numbers had slightly dwindled, for by this time the midland iron-masters had discovered the value of the exhaustless stores of coal within their reach, and had invested capital in working them. Their iron in consequence could be more

cheaply produced than that of Sussex, which depended on wood for fuel, for it must be remembered that in all cases where "coals" are mentioned connected with the industry in these parts, the term stands for "charcoal."

In 1740 ten of the Sussex furnaces were worked. In 1788 there were only two, those of Farnhurst and Ashburnham. In 1796 Ashburnham stood alone, and remained at work until 1825, when it too was given up, and Sussex iron-works became a thing of the past; so completely of the past, that almost all traces of them have been obliterated.

The only opening to a disused mine in this neighbourhood is at Tidebrook; vegetation covers the cinder heaps, and most of the hammer ponds have been drained or converted into ornamental lakes. The hammer pond at "Little Forge," however, belonging to Huggett's furnace, and the sluices where two streams supplied the force of water may still be seen. It is the last house in Mayfield parish on the Buxted side, and, in fact, actually stands in three parishes. Here, too, are remains of the old hammer post, and a big anvil stands near. "Huggett's Farm" (now more celebrated for Sussex cattle) is an old building, prettily situated. In the great kitchen is a fireback much worn, having on it various animals in conjunction with the Pelham buckle, with dogs to support the wood logs, and a crane in the chimney on which to hang the pots. Here, too, may be seen another relic of old times and ways—the massive oak bench fixed to the kitchen wall with a long table in front of it, where the farm labourers dine. In former days a long leathern case hung above the bench for wooden spoons. The table had depressions into which wooden bowls fitted, and when the men came in, each had his dinner served in a bowl, taking down his spoon from the case behind him.

The firebacks, dogs, and cranes have made way for modern grates in most of the old farms, but good cranes still hang in their old places at Page's Farm, and at the Rose and Crown Inn, not to mention others further afield.

Tobacco-tongs, rushlight holders, bell-pulls, and other small articles may be found in old houses, but as Professor Starkie Gardner remarks:—"The Weald was primarily devoted to the production of the raw material, pig-iron, and bar-iron, as Staffordshire is to-day; and these trifles were only produced when its wholesale trade was ebbing."

One other industry remains of a very different character, which is said also to date from time immemorial, and which shows no sign

of decrease. A stranger, on coming to Mayfield or any of the surrounding villages, cannot fail to notice the number of hen-coops, with broods of chickens running about them, that dot small fields or waste ground on all sides.

The so-called "Heathfield district" supplies the market with an incredible quantity of poultry, although, curiously enough, these chickens, which have thriven in Sussex bye-ways, are chiefly known to the trade as "Surrey" fowls. The rearing and fattening form two distinct branches of the trade, so that, although it may happen that a rearer is also a fattener, the usual rule is that chickens are reared by one person and fattened by another. Almost everyone, from the labourer with a good bit of garden ground, to the farmer, rears chickens; and the "higglers"* make their rounds collecting the chickens which are ready for fattening, with wicker crates, carried sometimes on their backs, but more usually nowadays in carts. When once the birds are placed in the fattening pens, they do not again touch the ground until they are killed. The process of fattening lasts three or four weeks, the usual food being ground oats with fat of some kind, mixed with skim milk. The cramming is usually done by a machine worked with a treadle, which sends the requisite quantity of food down the bird's throat by means of a tube. This operation is performed very rapidly by an expert, who assures a looker-on that the birds like it! Heathfield, Warbleton, and Waldron have the largest share of the trade, of which the growth has been enormous. It was estimated that the yearly value of dead poultry sent from Heathfield station a dozen years ago amounted to £60,000. It has since then reached the sum of about £140,000.

Trug-making is carried on to a certain extent, chiefly as a means of earning a little extra money, by old men or those incapacitated from hard work. (A trug is a Sussex garden basket, made of slips of wood nailed together, and finished with a stout wooden handle.) And perhaps here a "one man" industry of some years ago may be mentioned if only to show what may be accomplished by a brave spirit in face of difficulties.

James Weekes was born in 1808 and lived until 1887. From the age of eleven years he never left his bed, being unable to move any part of his body except his head and right arm and hand.

In spite of this and a life of severe suffering, he actually managed, in great part, to earn his own living by toy making. No one, on seeing his really beautifully made and painted wooden

* The name "higgler" seems to be peculiar to East Sussex, and is unknown in West Sussex.

toys and games, could easily believe that they were entirely fashioned by a man lying on his back with only one usable hand, supplemented by a chin, which had become quite pointed from constant use. A piece of wood was placed beneath his chin, and by it pressed hard against his chest. Thus fixed, his hand was free to use a knife or brush as seemed good to him; and he could thus manage all the cutting out as well.

The Rev. C. P. Longland, who published a short account of James Weekes, thus describes one of his solitaire boards:—

"It is square in form, some six inches in size; there are five and twenty holes bored through it at equal distances; each hole is in the centre of a painted flower, and is inclosed in a diamond-shaped border. The board is painted blue. The diamond borders of the flowers which have the holes for the pegs are formed by three lines, viz., by two white lines, with a yellow line between them, each yellow line crossed with three brown crosses, each white line dotted with three red dots. The pattern of the flowers within the borders is painted red and lilac alternately. At the four corners of each diamond is a small green star with white spots. Other diamonds of a similar nature fill up the spaces on the board between the diamonds which have the holes for the pegs. Turn over the board, and on the back of it you will see, legibly written, 'James Weekes, Mayfield, Sussex.' . . . And the pegs also are most carefully painted."

These were always placed in a perforated board while being painted, and were then left to dry. Some of his games were sent to the Industrial Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in 1864, for which he obtained a prize. He also gained prizes at an exhibition at Tunbridge Wells.

The Mayfield School of Wood-carving and Gilding was established in the winter of 1890–1 by the late Mr. J. J. Tylor and Miss Anna Bell-Irving. It seems as if the descendants of the men who carved the models for the cast-iron firebacks and the bargeboards to be seen on some of the old houses have inherited a talent for the work, as the early pupils made rapid progress under their first teacher, Mr. Sidney Giles of South Kensington, who was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Howard of King's College. Within a comparatively short time orders were taken for mouldings, panelling, mantelpieces, chairs, and other useful work. The school now gives constant employment to four men, two of whom give lessons to branch classes in other villages. Much church work has been accomplished, such as screens, pulpits, choir-stalls and lecterns, for various churches in different parts of the country.

CHAPTER XIV.

"WHEREAS the Inhabitants and Parishioners of the Parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex did, in the year 1749, by a voluntary subscription and contribution among themselves and others, raise and collect the several sums of money hereinafter specified to the intent that a Public Charity School might be founded in the said Parish of Mayfield, for the teaching and instructing Twenty four poor children of the said Parish in reading English, Writing, and Arithmetic, the following is a true list of the subscribers to the said Charity (viz.)

	£	s.	d.
Mich[l] Baker of Mayfield Esq[re]	157	10	0
Jn[o] Kent of the same Yeom	150	0	0
The Hon[ble] Hen. Pelham Esq[re]	50	0	0
R[t] Rev. L[d] Trevor, B[p] of St. David's	21	0	0
J[no] Edwards of Mayfield Esq[re]	20	0	0
J[no] Apsley of Lewes Esq[re]	10	10	0
Rev. J[no] Godman Vicar of Mayfield	10	10	0
Sam[l] Baker of Mayfield afores[d] Gent[n]	10	10	0
Marthanna Baker of the same Spinster	10	10	0
Francis Hall of the same Gent[n]	5	5	0
Benj[n] Maynard of the same Gent[n]	5	5	0
Edw[d] Sawyer of the same Gent[n]	3	3	0
Rich[d] Dungate of the same Gent[n]	3	3	0
Ge[o] Baker of the same Gent[n]	2	2	0
J[no] Duplock of the same Gent[n]	2	2	0
Hannah Baker of the same Wid	1	1	0
Anne Hooper of the same Spinster	1	1	0
Jn[o] Young of the same Gent[n]	1	1	0
Ansell Day of the same Gent[n]	1	1	0
J[no] Moon of the same Yeom	1	1	0
Christ[r] Crips of the same Yeom	1	1	0
Eliz Wood of the same Wid	1	1	0
Robert Baker of the same Gent[n]	1	1	0
Joseph Moon of the same Yeom	1	1	0
Edw[d] Gorringe of the same Yeom	1	1	0
Alex[r] Reed of the same Mercer	1	1	0
Carried forward	£478	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought over	473	1	0
Jn° Piper of the same Yeom	1	1	0
Will^m Moon of the same Yeom		10	6
Sampson Moon of the same Yeom		10	6
W^m Marchant of the same Yeom		10	6
Jn° Marchant of the same Plumber		10	6
Hannah Russell of the same Wid		10	6
Mich^l Ashdown of the same Yeoman		10	6
Roger Moore of the same Yeoman		10	6
Tho^s Mascall of the same Butcher		10	6
Jo^s Beale of the same Yeom		10	6
Benj^n Beale of the same Innholder		10	6
Martha Sands of the same Wid		10	6
Rob^t Taylor of the same Peruke maker		10	6
Rob^t Moon of the same Yeom		5	0
Jn° Briant of the same Yeom		5	0
The whole money subscribed	£480	18	0

And in order to carry this Charity into execution, the following gentlemen of the Parish of Mayfield are nominated Trustees, viz:

John Kent	Jn° Duplock
Edw^d Sawyer	Ansell Day
Sam^l Baker	Jn° Russell.

Who in May 1750 with £450, part of the said Subscription, purchased of Mich^l Baker Esq^re a RENT CHARGE of £18 per ann., payable for ever for the support of the said School."

The deed sets forth that Michael Baker:

"Doth for himself his heirs, executors and administrators, give grant and confirm unto the said John Kent, Edward Sawyer, Samuel Baker, John Duplock, Ansell Day, and John Russell, and to their heirs and assigns, one yearly rent or sum of Eighteen pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be issueing goeing forth and taken out of and from All that the Manor of Bunghurst alias Wallwynes in the said County of Sussex, with all and singular its rights members and appurtenances whatsoever, And out of and from All that capital Messuage or Tenement with the Barns, Buildings, Yards, Gardens and Orchards thereunto belonging, commonly called or known by the name of Bungshurst alias Wallwynes in Mayfield aforesaid in the said County of Sussex, and out of or from All those several closes or parcels of land, Arable meadow pasture and woodlands to the said capital Messuage or Tenement belonging or appertaining or reputed to appertain or belong, containing in the whole by estimation Three hundred and ten acres of land, be the same more or

less, situate lying and being in the several parishes of Mayfield and Heathfield in the said County of Sussex, and now in the tenure or occupation of James Barns and of the said Michael Baker or one of them, And are or are reputed to be the Demeasne Lands of or belonging to the said Manor of Bungshurst alias Wallwynes belonging to the said Michael Baker, And also out of and from All that the Manor of Isenhurst in the said County of Sussex, with all and singular its rights members and appurtenances whatsoever, And out of and from All that messuage or Tenement with the Barn, buildings, yards, gardens, and orchards thereunto belonging, called or known by the name of Old Mill in Mayfield aforesaid, And out of or from All those several closes or parcels of land arable, meadow, pasture, and wood lands to the said messuage or tenement called Old Mill belonging or appertaining or reputed to appertain or belong, containing in the whole by estimation Two hundred and ninety six acres of Land, be the same more or less, situate lying and being in Mayfield aforesaid and now in the tenure or occupation of Nicholas Crips and of the said Michael Baker or one of them, and are or are reputed to be the Demeasne Lands of and belonging to the said Manor of Isenhurst belonging also to the said Michael Baker, And out of and from all other the Messuages, lands, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said several manors, messuages, lands or premises belonging or in any wise appurtaining; And to be paid and payable unto them the said John Kent, Edward Sawyer, Samuel Baker, John Duplock, Ansell Day and John Russell and unto the survivors and survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of such survivors or survivor free and clear of and from all Taxes, charges, and Deductions whatsoever, Parliamentary or otherwise, imposed or to be imposed by any Act of Parliament made or to be made or otherwise howsoever, At or in the Church porch of the Parish Church of the said Parish of Mayfield Yearly and every year on the four most usual feasts or days of payment of Rent in the year (that is to say), On the Feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, of Saint Michael the Archangell, and of the Birth of our Lord Christ, by even and equal portions and payments, the first payment to begin and to be made on the first of the said Feasts which shall next happen after the Ensealing and delivery of these presents; To have, hold, receive, perceive and take the said yearly rent or sum of eighteen pounds" etc., etc.

Rules were drawn up and agreed upon

"at a meeting of the Trustees of the said School held at the Schoolroom in the Parish Church of Mayfield on Friday the 29th day of June 1750, on due notice thereof given in the Parish Church of Mayfield aforesaid, pursuant to the direction of the Deeds of Foundation of the said School. Were Present the Rev^{d}. John Godman, Vicar of Mayfield aforesaid (being as Vicar a Manager), John Kent, Edward Sawyer, Samuel Baker, John Duplock, Ansell Day, and John Russell, the Trustees of the said School and also managers."

"And we the said managers do at this Meeting, in Pursuance of the power vested in us by the said Deeds, nominate and appoint Walter Gale late of Laughton in this county but now of Mayfield Gent. to be school master of the said School, And the several poor children of the said Parish of Mayfield named to be taught and instructed therein." (Only 16 children were at first found willing to be instructed.)

"... And Further we the said managers have at this Meeting agreed upon the following rules and regulations for the better government of the said School, which we think necessary to be observed as well by the Managers of the said School for the time being in their choice of a school master (as also by every Schoolmaster so chosen) in the execution of his Office (to Wit)

With Respect to the Master's Qualification:

1. That he be a member of the Church of England, of a sober life and conversation.
2. That he be a person of known affection to the present establishment in Church and State.
3. That he understand well the grounds and principles of the Christian religion, and that he be approved by the Minister.
4. That he be of a meek and humble behaviour.
5. That he have a good government of himself and passions.
6. That he frequent the Holy Communion.
7. That he have a genius for teaching, that he write a good hand, and understand arithmetic.

With Respect to his Duty:

1. That he attend the School in the summer half-year from the hours of seven to eleven in the morning, and from one to five in the evening; and in the winter, from eight to eleven in the morning, and from one to four in the evening.
2. That he teach the children the true spelling of words, and make them mind their stops, and read distinctly.
3. That he make it his chief business to instruct the children in the principles of the Christian religion, as professed by the Church of England and laid down in the Church Catechism, which he first make them to pronounce distinctly, and then use an exposition to be approved of by the minister.
4. That he take particular care of the manners and behaviour of the children, and by all proper methods discourage and correct the beginnings of vice, such as lieing, swearing, cursing, stealing, etc.
5. That he use in the school a form of Prayer, morning and evening, such as shall be approved of by the minister.
6. That he bring the children to church and sit with them there every Lord's Day, and at all other times when there shall be Divine Service, and to take care that they shall have their Bibles and Common Prayer Books.

7. That the children's names be called over morning and evening, and if absent their names taken notice of, and for greater faults, such as lieing, stealing, swearing, truanting, such to be noted in monthly or weekly bills and be laid before the Managers every time they meet, in order for correction or expulsion.

"And we, the said Managers, to this entry of our proceedings at this Meeting, have all set our hands, the day and year aforesaid.

JOHN GODMAN, Vicar.	The mark X of
EDWARD SAWYER.	JOHN KENT.
JOHN DUPLOCK.	SAMUEL BAKER.
ANSELL DAY.	JOHN RUSSELL."

(It will be seen that Mr. Kent, who gave so liberally towards the education of the children of the parish, was himself unable to write.)

At the next meeting of the managers, held Oct. 5, 1750, the following rule was added:

8. That the master and scholars have a fortnight at Christmas, a fortnight at Whitsuntide, and four weeks at Bartholomewtide for breaking-up times yearly, and no more; and may observe as Holydays all such Saints' Days as by the Rubrick of the Church of England are appointed to be observed. But, nevertheless, they that attend Divine Service at church those days if any be.

Mr. Michael Baker died in July, 1750, and by his will devised to the School Trustees

"All that new Erected Messuage or Tenement with the Garden and Appurtenances thereto belonging situate at the East End of the Town of Mayfield aforesaid late Robert Pettitt's, and now in the occupation of my cousin Ann Hooper and of John Longley." . . . "In trust that they (the trustees) their heirs and assigns do and shall at all times for ever hereafter permit and suffer the Schoolmaster for the time being of the Charity School lately founded at Mayfield, to inhabit and dwell therein and to receive and take the rents issues and profits thereof to his and their own proper use and uses, such schoolmaster keeping the same in such Due repair from time to time," etc., etc.

At the October Meeting in 1751, it was resolved:

"that the Schoolmaster shall have the liberty of keeping all Hollidays the Birthdays and other Red Letter days in the Calendar appointed to be observed in respect or Honor of the Royal Family. He attending the School on all Saints' days in the forenoon, and on those days attending the Children to Church and sitting with them there when there shall be divine service."

The salary was only £16 a year, which was, however, increased by the bequest of the house and garden under Mr. Michael Baker's will, which let for £18 per annum, as Mr. Gale continued to live with his mother at Calkins Mill.

The school was at first held at the south-west end of the church, which had been partitioned off as a vestry.

Gale eked out his salary by fees for all manner of odd jobs, of which painting the Commandments for the church was one. The parish accounts show he was paid £2 9*s.* 0*d.* for measuring roads. His diary, which is in existence, and was published in Vol. IX. of the Suss. Arch. Colls., shows that he painted signs for public houses, engraved tombstones, made patterns for ladies' needlework, and drew up wills for his fellow townsmen.

Immediately upon his appointment as schoolmaster, he began to keep the journal, from which a few extracts are given.

One of Mr. Gale's earliest visitors to the school was "Mr. Hassell the conjurer." The diary says he

"brought with him a map he had made of a farm belonging to Colonel Fuller. We went to gether at noon to Elliott's where he treated me with a quartern of gin, and I gave him a dinner at Coggins Mill. Having dined the cunjuror we returned to Elliott's, where he treated me as before. I wrote the title of his map, and at four o'clock we went to Beale's to the Clubb; at six I went to the school and finished his map, and he as a satisfaction promised me half-a-crown. At nine he returned to Heathfield, carrying with him my 'Little's introduction to Astrology.'

"21st. St. Thomas' Day. I began to paint Turner's sign, went to Church, and attended prayers, which being finished, I went to the School, where we were followed by Mr. R. Baker and his lady, and Master Kent, who ordered Stephen Parker, the Sexton, to keep the doors, to let some of the dollers in, which being done, he distributed the cash, I taking the account of the receivers; we found the number to be 108." *

"26th. I began to draw the quilt belonging to Mr. Godman.

"30th. I finished the bed quilt after five days close application. It

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* The custom of asking for doles on St. Thomas's Day may be said to be only now dying out in the village. The later custom has been to ask from house to house.

"It was very common in the South-Eastern counties of England. It is confined to women, who formerly, in return for the alms which they received, used to present their benefactors with sprigs of evergreens, probably to deck their houses with at the ensuing Festival." (Brand's "Popular Antiquities.")

gave satisfaction, and I received 19*s.* 6*d.* for the drawing. Mr. Godman did not say he thought it too much, but that it was a pretty deal of money.

"January 1st, 1751. I was at the Rev. Richard Porter's, and continued there this day, and posted for him a translation from Longinus of Sappho, which he had anew translated into Saphic verse to the sound time and metre, with the original Greek.

"January 4th, 1751. I past accounts with Widow Cane, £1 18*s.* 6*d.* This money was in full for their tombstones; and I desired the favour of Mr. Goldsmith to employ me in painting the commandments, a thing they intend to have done in their Church.

"Sunday, 7th. Gave my attendance at divine service. Two o'clock I went to the Star at Heathfield, where I found the conjurer and spent 8½*d.* with him.

"Sunday, 11th February. Gave attendance at Divine Service. 4th Chap. of St. John, 24th verse. He gave an historical account of our Saviour's conversation with the Samaritan woman, he then made an explanation of Jacob's ladder, and he found great fault with some of his auditors that they did not attend prayers on holydays.

"15th. Master Kent and Mr. M. Baker came to the school. They discoursed with me on the number of scholars I would teach for £16 per annum. Master Kent proposed 24, but after much debate, the number was fixed at 21, the third part of which are supposed to be writers" (*i.e.*, taught writing as well as reading).

"27th. This being Shrove Tuesday I went to Halland to the Nursery.* This being the day for the rearing of the sign I found several people there, and I took my dinner with them.

"Sunday, 4th. I took the conjurer's dividers to Heathfield, and I left them, the conjurer not being at home. Returned to Mayfield accompanied part of the way by my cousin Vine, and we came to the conclusion if the weather remained fine about a journey to Bourn, and we agreed, both of us, to put off our schools on that day.

"9th. I went to Heathfield and met with John Vine, who had neglected to put off his scholars, and raised some weak excuses against going.

"5th March. Master Thomas Merchant at Little London (beyond Cross-in-hand) came into the school to confer about painting the Commandments at their Church. I made the price two guineas, which he had no objection to.

"10th. Being disappointed of my Bourn journey I set out for Laughton, after drinking a quartern of gin, and came to Whitesmith's,† where was a hurley boloo about Mr. Plummer's (now a custom house officer) having seized a horse loaded with three anchors of brandy, which

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* A hamlet between E. Hoathly and Uckfield.

† A hamlet partly in Laughton, and partly in Chiddingly parishes.

was carried off by him and two soldiers, and afterwards stabled at Parishe's. John Willard and William Bran being there, followed and overtook them, and prevailed with them to go back. Parish took the seized horse, and put it into Martin's stable.*

"Sunday, April 1st. The passing bell of this Church was rung from 2 to 3 o'clock for Mr. Baker at Hamsell.

"10th. I finished diamonding two heel bands, and three hind quarter pieces of a pair of shoes for Squire Baker's lady.

"May 13th, Sunday. I heard on my arrival at Coggins Mill that Mr. Godman had died the night before. Gave my attendance at Church. Service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Delves (text Acts xxiv. v. 25), who made an excellent discourse. On Wednesday the hearse with the corpse of Mr. Godman set out from the Vicarage to be deposited in the Horsted Chancel in that Church. (Framfield.)

"26th. Old Kent came, and I went with him to Mr. Baker; they said they should have a ragged congregation of scholars, who should sit together in the New Gallery, and that they should insist on my sitting with them; to this I did not assent.

"May 28th. Gave attendance at a cricket match, played between the gamsters at Burwash, and Mayfield, to the advantage of the latter.†

"30th. I finished drawing a waistcoat for Mr. Baker, I carried it home, and received 2*s.* from his lady for my work.

"31st. Mr. Baker told me I had not enough for drawing his waistcoat, and he gave me 5*s.* for my further satisfaction, and for measuring his hop garden. At 11, Mr. Baker, his lady, Miss Patty Baker, and Mr. Samuel set out for Bristol. At 6 o'clock I finished a poem on Mr. Baker's journey, which I shewed to Mr. Keats, and it met with his approbation."

As he had reason to believe, his enemy, old Kent, intended to inform against him as being an unlicensed teacher. He went round the parish, and called upon his neighbours to certify his good qualities, "his attachment to church and state, his sober life and conversation;" his last visit being to old Mr. Diplock of The Moat,

* The celebrated "Hawkhurst gang" of smugglers were at this period the terror of the counties of Kent and Sussex. Smuggling was considered a very venial error, but two years before this some of the Hawkhurst gang had been hanged in chains in various parts of Sussex for the most cruel torture and murder of two custom house officers. Richly as the murderers deserved their fate, troops were ordered to attend the execution to prevent an attempt at rescue. Seven others were, in the following year, convicted at East Grinstead, and six were executed for the murder of a man whom they suspected of giving information against them.

† The word "cricket," as applied to a game, first occurs about the year 1550. The first cricket club, the Hambledon, was founded in 1750, the year before that of which Mr. Gale is writing.

with whom he partook of a bottle of strong beer. He then received his license, which, omitting the preamble, ran as follows :—

"To our beloved in Christ, Walter Gale of the Parish of Mayfield in the Deanery of South Malling aforesaid, greeting.

"Whereas you have been reccommended to us by the testimony of the ministers and churchwardens, and many of the principal inhabitants of the parish of Mayfield, as a person of a sober and virtuous life, and of sound morals, well qualified to teach and instruct youth in reading writing and arithmetic, whereby we are inclined to have a favourable regard unto you; we therefore by these presents grant unto you the said Walter Gale, in whose fidelity we greatly confide, our licence and faculty to teach and instruct the youth of the Parish of Mayfield, as a schoolmaster in reading writing and arithmetic.

"Given under the seal of our office this sixteenth day of April one thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven.

"(Signed) JOHN BUTTERWORTH,
"Doctor of laws, Dean and Comissary, etc."

"August 2nd. The Wadhurst gentlemen came to play at cricket with those of Mayfield, when the former beat the latter by 106.

"1759, July 24th. Left off School at 2 o'clock having heard the spellers and readers a lesson apiece, to attend the cricket match of the gamsters of Mayfield against those of Lindfield and Chailey.

"May 29th, 1760. The old man (Master Kent) entered the school with George Wilmshurst and Eliz Hook, and said they should be taught free. I asked him how many I was to teach free; without any further ado he fell into a violent passion. Among other abusive and scurrilous language he said I was an upstart runagate beggar dog, that I picked his pocket, and that I never knew how to teach a school in my life. He clinched his fist in my face, and made a motion to strike me, and declared he would break my head. He did not strike me, but withdrew in a wonderful heat, and ended all with his general maxim 'The greater scholler, the greater rogue.'

"30th. I told Mr. Dungate * of my entering on the assistant hop business at Rotherfield, with the approbation of Mr. Baker, of which he also approved. I then delivered a paper which ran thus :—

"'Whereas the deplorable condition of the schollers of the free school, arising from their being confined in a close room with a charcoal fire, hath been made to appear, it is thought absolutely necessary to do something whereby the pernicious vapour which arises thence may be vented and carreyed off, for which purpose a cupola has been proposed; it appears

* A new trustee, appointed 8th July, 1717, in the room of John Russell, deceased.

by an estimate that the charge will amount to £3 3*s.*; it is proposed to raise that sum by subscription.'

"3rd October. I came to Mayfield, and found in the church porch the two Wilmshursts' and George Richardson, who through James' too mild treatment was got to be master. I ordered him into the school, and took the management myself. I was told by Mr. Downall that the day before, James had been so indiscrete as to suffer Richardson's boy George to bring beer into the school, and old Kent coming in before the mugg was out the boy asked him to drink, thereupon he fell into a great heat, and drove the boy out of the school.

"26th. I was called into the little chamber over the club room, and there I found Mr. Baker, Mr. Dungate, old Sawyer, and old. Kent, who said that I spent my time in reading printed papers, to the neglect of the children; he said that I was coveteous, undertook to do other persons' business, to the neglect and detriment of the school; that the children did not improve, and that he would get an old woman for 2*d.* a week to teach them better! I then answered that many of them were extremely dull, and that I would defie any person that should undertake it to teach them better. He then said that I got money so fast that I was above my business, and it made me saucy, and that I had always been discharged from every place where I had any employment, unless it was from old Mary Weston's, and he did not know whether I had been sent from there or no. I answered that he was again mistaken, that I was not above my business, but carefully discharged it, nor could I be called saucy for defending the truth, and that he was grievously out in affirming that I had been discharged from the places where I had served, for contrariwise I met with advancement on leaving every one of them."

The remainder of the diary is lost. Mr. Kent died in 1764, when there were three vacancies in the number of trustees, and Thomas Maynard, gentleman, John Wood, gentleman, and Thomas Huett Dungate, gentleman, were the newly appointed trustees. Walter Gale continued to hold the appointment of schoolmaster until 1771, when at a meeting held on the 18th October, it was resolved unanimously

"that the present schoolmaster, Mr. Walter Gale be removed from the said school for neglecting the duties thereof, and that he have notice to leave the same the next quarter day. And also that an advertizement be inserted in the next Lewes Journal that there will be a vacancy for a new master of the said school at Old Christmas Day next.

(Signed) Roger Challice, Vicar.
John Duplock.
John Wood.
T. H. Dungate.
Thos. Maynard."

O

And on the 10th April, 1772,

"It was ordered that Mr. Gale, the old schoolmaster, be not paid his salary due till he has absolutely put the schoolhouse in such a condition as to the form of it, as it was at the time of his entering upon such house."

The succeeding master was Benjamin Hearnden of the Cliffe, Lewes, gentleman; and Mr. Michael Baker having made a bequest of £100 to the school, five more children were added to the list of scholars "in consideration of the Benefaction aforesaid." In 1783 the trustees received another £100 under the will of Mr. Thomas Baker, and the number of scholars was again increased. It had been previously ordered that no child should be received under the age of eight years, nor should any receive instruction for a longer period than four years. In this year Mr. Hearnden resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Weller of Heathfield, who, to judge from a beautifully executed map of an estate in the parish signed by his name, must have been as accomplished a draughtsman as Mr. Gale. The headings are enclosed in floral wreaths, and the corners are occupied by drawings of church and palace. He was the great-grandfather of the well-known artist, Lady Butler, *née* Elizabeth Thompson. He only lived four years after his appointment, and was succeeded by Stephen Swaysland of East Grinstead, who was given notice to quit in 1810; and it is recorded at the April meeting in 1811 that the master's neglect having been made manifest and (on the trustees giving admonition) the master's conduct to them being insulting, rude, contemptible, "it is ordered that the master be removed as soon as conveniently may be." The trustees were unable to get rid of him until the autumn following, after legal proceedings had been taken, when he was succeeded by Mr. James Dampier of Rotherfield, who held the office over thirty years, and was, in his turn, succeeded by Mr. John Westbrook who taught at first the mixed school of his predecessors, and after a separate girls' school was provided, he remained as master of the boys' school until his retirement in 1886. The girls were taught in the vestry at the south of the church after the boys moved to their present school, until the year 1851, when the girls' school was completed, and the infant school was added to it in 1873.

Such is the past history of the Mayfield schools, by which we see that until the year 1750 no provision was made for the education of the village children, although individual parents who realised the

advantage of learning to read and write, may have paid for such small amount of teaching as could be had at some dame's school in the place. We also see that then, and for some years afterwards, no especial training was considered essential for the master. It is small wonder that at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the cause of education had made little or no progress to correspond with increased enlightenment on many other subjects. As late as 1802 one of the newly-appointed managers of the school, a man of considerable property, had to sign his mark. About this period many who had received a fair education fell into the snare of the misuse of long high-sounding words, with which to dazzle their more ignorant neighbours. Even children's books were written in ridiculously stilted language, and must have been far above the comprehension of young readers.

After the decay of the iron-works, life in Wealden villages was very quiet and uneventful.

As the iron trade decreased, so did the landed property of the Baker family. On the death of John Baker in 1723, his two sons separated the mansion from the manor, and by indenture of lease and release 13th and 14th Jan., 1724, they sold the manor with the half hundred of Loxfield and all its rights to Henry Pelham, Esqre., who parted with it to John Jeffries Pratt, afterwards Marquess Camden. The present Marquess continues to hold it. The Bakers, however, retained the manor house, and the lands immediately attached to it, amounting to nearly 400 acres.

Michael Baker, only son of the Rev. Peter Baker, removed his residence to the Lower House (as the family re-named Aylwins), dismantled a large portion of the palace, converted the porter's lodge into a dwelling-house by building up the gateway with part of the materials, making this over to the builder in payment of work done; took down the roof of the great hall (under a clause in his father's will), removed the floors, and further employed the materials in erecting other houses in the village. He died at the age of thirty-four in 1750.

His wife survived till 1796, outliving the entire male descendants of the two uncles of her husband, by reason of which the estates devolved upon the two daughters of George Baker of The Place (the last of the family who lived there), one of whom married the Rev. John Kirby, Vicar. The property was divided in 1809, and The Place fell to the share of Mrs. Kirby.

Mayfield furnished two high sheriffs for the county in the eighteenth century. The first was Mr. John Edwards of Herrings

in 1744, and it is said he dressed his javelin men in smock frocks; and, so attended, performed his duties at the assizes during his term of office. The second was Mr. Thomas Baker of the Lower House in the year 1775.

Javelin men were employed on all state occasions. John Evelyn, who, some fifty years previously to Mr. Edwards, was the last sheriff of the combined counties of Kent and Sussex, attended the judges with one hundred and sixteen servants in green satin doublets and cloth cloaks trimmed with silver galoon, as were the brims of their hats, which were further adorned with white feathers. These men carried new javelins, and two trumpets, and bore banners on which were emblazoned Evelyn's arms. There were besides thirty gentlemen, mostly his nephews and great-nephews, who went with him to do him honour. Some people might prefer the quaint simplicity of the smock frocks.

But little remains to be told of the nineteenth century. One event, however, that should be chronicled is the visit of our late Queen, when she was Princess Victoria, to Mayfield.

She was staying with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, at Boyne House, Tunbridge Wells; and it was from there that the royal party rode over to luncheon at the Old Palace. Mrs. Day of Hadlow was present, and her letter to her son Ansell describing the scene has been published in the vols. of the Sussex Arch. Colls. :—

"Your Father had a note from Lord De la Warr, who had previously promised to bring Lady Delawarr with him in the ruins, where we were to have a luncheon prepared. The Duchess of Kent was staying at Tunbridge Wells, and this note stated that the plan was changed, that the subject had been mentioned at the Duchess' table, and that he had been desired to give the Duchess' commands to your Father to attend her there on the following day, and that it would be proper (though not imperative) that I should accompany him.

"At the hour fixed, or rather about half an hour earlier, we were on the spot. Instead of its usual quiet, it was filled with servants bringing in everything necessary for the collation, or as Mrs. Homewood (the farmer's wife, who had charge of the place) said, 'There were nasty furriners jabbering everywhere.' Soon Lord and Lady Delawarr arrived to do the honours. Just then, arrived the Duchess, the Princess, and their suite. Lord Delawarr and his family being a quarter of an hour after time, it was very awkward, as we did not know one person. The appearance of the whole *cortège* was not imposing; such a dusty party I think I have never seen. . . . A call for a clothes' brush followed, and after considerable delay it was procured, and the young ladies set to work to brush each other's habits at the door of the sitting room. This did away with a good deal of ceremony, and occasioned much fun. The Princess Victoria was then about 14 or 15 years of age, and I heard her say it was

not the first time she had visited Mayfield; that on the first occasion she was quite a little child; that she had fallen asleep in the carriage, and awoke very hungry, adding, 'I never was so angry in my life; there was nothing to be had that I could eat.' You will, perhaps like to know the names of those who were there. I remember the Baroness Leitzen (I am not sure that the name is exactly correct); the Princess' governess; Dr. Davies, then her tutor; Miss Davies; Sir John and Lady Conroy, and two daughters; Lady Flora Hastings (for whose very kind attention I had much reason to be obliged, for your father was called upon to act as cicerone, and when the luncheon had been discussed, I was the only person not known to all, and should have been uncomfortable, had not she so kindly joined me). There were some others in the Duchess' suite, but I have forgotten their names. Lord and Lady Delawarr were also there with their eldest daughter and the youngest, the present Marchioness of Salisbury. She was a little girl then, and the Princess delighted her by presenting her a silver-mounted riding whip."

The Marchioness of Salisbury afterwards married the Earl of Derby, and she and her daughter, Lady Margaret Cecil, with her brother, Lord Sackville, visited Mayfield Palace once more in March, 1896, a few years before her death; when she said she well remembered the royal visit, and the gift of the riding whip; also that she kept a diary as a child, in which she had recorded it.

The past fifty years have brought many changes; amongst them being the conversion of the old Palace into a convent with a boarding-school for ladies attached. In the year 1852 the property of the late Rev. John Kirby was divided into eight shares, and the ruined palace passed to Miss Marthanna Kirby, by whom it was sold in 1858 to Francis Cordrey. He again disposed of it in 1863 to the Duchess of Leeds, who bestowed it on the sisters of the Order of the Holy Child Jesus, to be restored, and converted to educational purposes. The first restorations were conducted by the architect, E. W. Pugin, who showed much judgment in preserving with care all that is ancient in the buildings, with the exception of the grand staircase, which was demolished to give more room. The old gateway was later on opened out, to become once more the chief entrance. Finally, modern buildings of great extent have arisen by the side of the old ones, with complete equipment for a large school.

The railway was built in 1880, followed by the electric telegraph and improved postal arrangements, to give increased facilities of communication with the rest of the world. New houses have arisen on all sides, and the days seem far off when—really only about thirty to forty years ago—the ladies of the place in hot weather would sometimes pay each other little morning visits, to announce that the

butcher would kill a sheep if the principal joints were bespoken. Mrs. A. would take a leg, Mrs. B. a shoulder, and so on until the required number of participants was made up.

Nowhere have changes and improvements been more marked than in the church. To give only one instance. In common with most other country churches, it was not warmed in any way. The cold in winter was bitter; an old man might be seen every Sunday in the north aisle with his bald head comfortably covered by a barrister's wig, presented to him for the purpose by his master. Surely also the last pigtail in England survived in Mayfield; worn by an old farmer who adhered to this fashion of his youth until his death in the "Sixties." He was a visitor to the Great Exhibition of 1851, where he attracted some attention. He overheard one lady say to another, "I wonder to what country he belongs." To her surprise he turned round and gave the answer: "Plain John Bull, madam. Just plain John Bull."

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